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ZONE

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A DAY OF CELEBRATION, REFLECTION & EDUCATION

SATURDAY NIGHT FOREVER

GAY PLAY COMES TO LEICESTER

OUT

THE ESSENTIAL NIGHTLIFE + CLUBBING GUIDE

PAM ANN

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
THE INTERNATIONAL AIR HOSTESS FLIES INTO BIRMINGHAM THIS MONTH

WILL YOUNG

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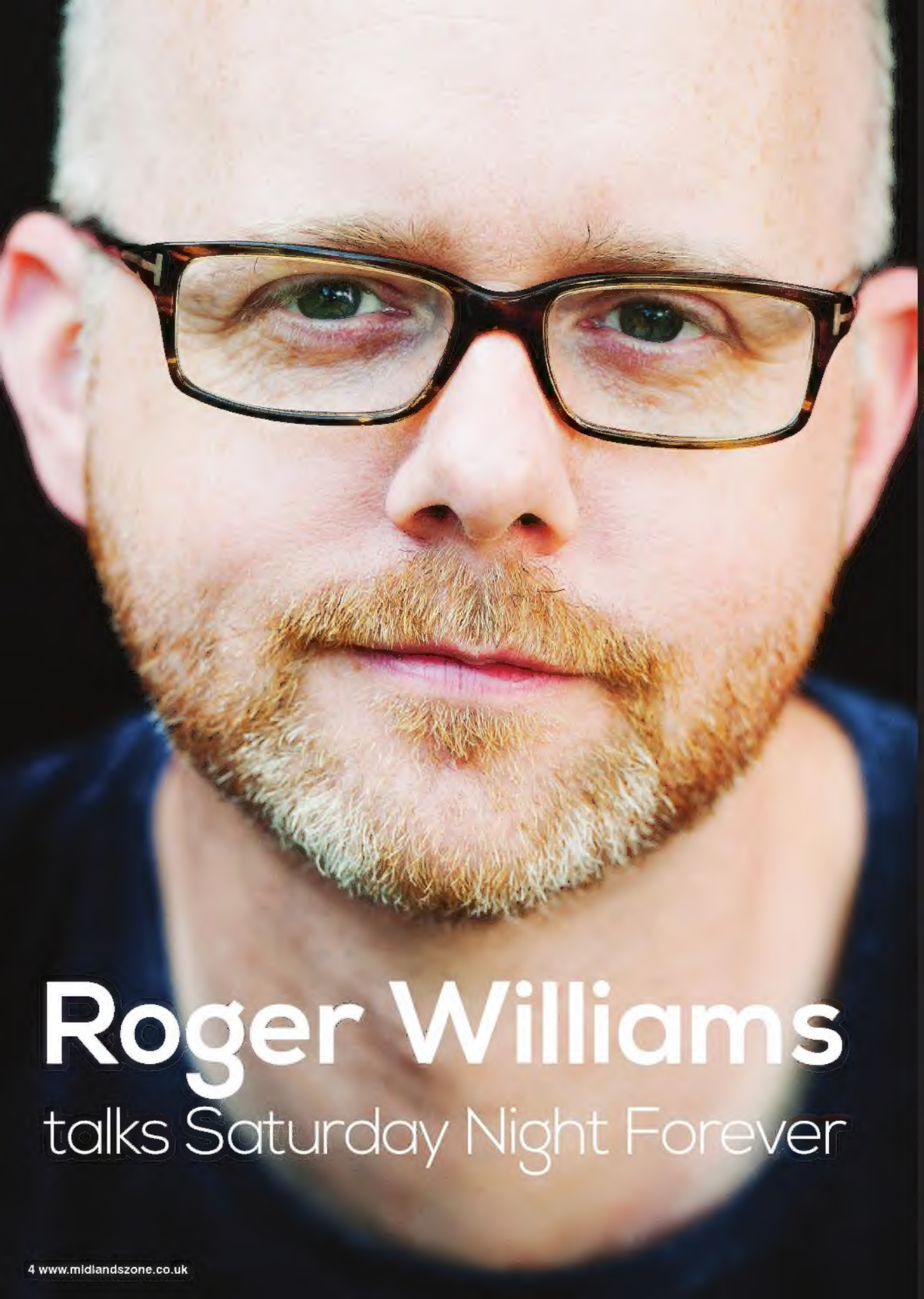


Roger Williams

talks Saturday Night Forever

Back in 1998, Roger Williams wrote hit gay play Saturday Night Forever. He's since reworked it to bring it bang up to date, and now it's coming to Leicester's Curve Theatre. Roger took some time out to talk to Midlands Zone about the play, his career, and where his inspiration comes from...

How did you first get into writing for television and theatre, Roger?
I was one of those precocious children who wanted to be an actor, but I was kind of told by a drama teacher at school that I wasn't very good. She said I should maybe consider working in a different area of the profession. Because I was precocious, I used to write plays when I was at school. The drama teacher saw something I'd written, saw something in it, and encouraged me to write rather than act. The interest in writing plays stuck through university. Then, pretty much as soon as I graduated from Warwick University, I started getting commissions to write for professional companies.

When did you get your first big break?
I wrote a theatre play called Gulp, which was described as Wales' first gay play, back in the mid-1990s. I'd written this play about twentysomethings living in Cardiff, dating and clubbing. It was the story of a gay man who found love and then had the bombshell dropped on him by an ex partner that he'd tested HIV positive. The play was quite a big success in Cardiff and then toured around the UK and Ireland. I was twenty-two or twenty-three at the time, and that was my first experience of having a hit play. I thought it was always going to be like that.

Where do you get your inspiration from?
It tends to come to me when I feel there's something that I want to talk about, or when there's something that I think needs to be brought to people's attention. A lot of my work has got something political going on in the mix.

Your latest work is called Saturday Night Forever. Can you tell us a little bit about it?
It's a play that I wrote back in 1998. It's the story of a man who's in a relationship that he's not very happy with. It's dawning on him that he's with the wrong guy and that he should probably do something about it. It's happened to me; it's happened to lots of people, I think. You kind of don't tackle it head on, and then something sparks a row. Suddenly, all of your angst about the relationship comes out. So the character finds himself single again. He's a romantic who's looking for a relationship. He finds the love of his life, but that relationship is very cruelly taken away from him. The majority of the play is very funny. It's kind of a guy telling you about his failures in love. I've just re-written it because it hadn't been done for a while. It occurred to me that society has changed so much since I wrote the original, not just in terms of attitudes towards gay people but just things like mobile phones, Facebook, Twitter, Grindr, all of that stuff.

Where did the inspiration for this story come from?
There was a documentary on TV about a guy who was queer bashed but who wasn't queer. He was walking home and this group of lads decided he was gay and started on him. By the end of the attack he was dead. The documentary told the story so well that it affected me, it moved me and gave me the impetus to write a new play. It was written very quickly. I wrote the original in a matter of days. It just felt quite urgent, as though I needed to write it right there and then. The first production happened very soon afterwards. It was a really nice way of working because I didn't get to think about it too hard or too much. It just felt like, 'Right, I have to write it and we have to do it'.

What made you decide to set it against the backdrop of Cardiff?
The advice that you read about a lot - and I think it's very true - is to write about what you know. I was in my early 20s and living in the middle of Cardiff. I wanted to talk about the places my audience would know. It was a world I knew very well, which meant I could go into quite good detail about certain gay venues. What's been interesting about re-writing it is that lots of these places have gone and lots have changed. I've changed as a writer and Cardiff has changed as a place. It's a much, much bigger city than it was way back in '98 when I wrote the play originally. The world around us has changed too, attitudes towards gay people have changed, we've got equal marriage now and gay adoption, and all of that social change has happened. I've changed as a person as well. I was single when I wrote the play and just having fun. I'm now in a civil partnership and a father - and I don't live in Cardiff any more either, interestingly enough.

Did you have a specific actor in mind to play the role of Lee?
We saw a lot of people, straight and gay, and weren't really sure who should play it. At times the play feels a bit like Lee is a stand-up comedian, so we needed to find someone who was charismatic and who the audience would like. When Delme Thomas came into the audition room, he was being a little bit cheeky and a little bit naughty - in a very charming way - in the way he was speaking to us, and that shone through. That, allied to him being a very good actor - which he went on to show us when he performed pieces from the play - persuaded us that he was the right person to take on the role.

Has Delme brought any additional character elements to the part?
I don't think so, to be honest. I've got a very strong sense of who the character is. When Delme came in, I felt very strongly that he wasn't too far away from the character, so I think it's a really good fit in terms of what I'd imagined, who Delme is and how he'll play the part.

What's been the biggest challenge regarding Saturday Night Forever?
The biggest challenge was getting it on. I thought it said something important that needed to be talked about, but a lot of theatre companies plan quite far in advance. So me and a couple of friends decided to do it ourselves. We begged, borrowed and stole. We got an empty theatre in Cardiff for a week and put it on there. Then it went on a short tour and played the Edinburgh Festival as well. So I guess that was the biggest challenge at the time - putting it in front of audiences rather than having it sit on a disc on my computer for a couple of years before it was produced.

What's next for Roger Williams?
I'm writing a play about two gay men who decide to adopt, which is something I've been through personally and is, again, subject matter that I think needs to be talked about. I also think it's a very funny scenario. Our own situation was very funny because we were so naïve about what it would mean to become parents, and how our lives would change once our little boy came along. I also now own an independent production company, so I'm both writing and producing some television projects. I've moved into television production to have a new challenge alongside the writing. I'm also trying to get a queer feature film that I've written produced - so lots of projects, really.

Saturday Night Forever shows at Leicester's **Curve Theatre** on Friday 20 and Saturday 21 November.

PAM ANN

The Queen of the Sky is back!

International air hostess Pam Ann heads back to the Midlands this month with her new show, Queen Of The Sky. Midlands Zone sat down with the Aussie comedian - real name Caroline Reid - to talk about all things air travel, why the gays love her so much - and what to do when trying to join the Mile High Club...

Tell us a bit about who Pam Ann is?
Pam Ann has her own world. The premise is that she's an air hostess, but her character is very opinionated and commentates on a lot of current affairs - stuff that's in the news at the moment. It's observational comedy. The character is someone that you probably wouldn't want to be in front of in the front row if you're easily offended. She's a no-filter straight-shooter, and a very politically incorrect air hostess.

Where does the inspiration for your material come from?
Kate Middleton. No, I'm joking! She's the polar opposite. Comedians who I'm inspired by are people who like to push the boundaries - Joan Rivers, Louis CK, Dave Chappelle. People who really like to push the boundaries and make you think. Anyone who brings race, culture, global issues and travel to their act. There's an element of flying in my shows, but I'd hate for people to come to my shows thinking we're just going to talk about flying, because it's not all about that.

Your new show, Queen Of The Sky, is coming to Birmingham this month. What can the audience expect?
It evolves as the time and places I visit go on. So I tailor the show to wherever I am and what's going on at the time. It'll be what I think of Birmingham. The first half an hour will be very off the cuff, a lot of audience interaction. I guess I play a lot with the audience, talking about immigration, customs, British culture, ISIS. I talk about different airlines, cocaine, drugs. I do a spoof video of Downton Abbey which is genius. Honestly, the laughter I hear in the audience when they see it, I wish they'd laugh at me like that. I also have transgender characters. I have a character who works at Tesco in the airport. There are the characters Caitlin and Gloria, who work for Qantas. There's a lot to enjoy and it's all brand new. It's an evolution and not the old Pam. The show is harder, harsher and probably more offensive than ever.

Have you got some horror stories from any flights you've been on?
The latest one was when I thought I might die on a flight coming in to land at JFK airport. The weather was extremely bad and there was another plane on the runway. The plane I was on just shot up like a rocket and the pilot announced, 'Welcome to JFK' - but we weren't even on the ground yet. Because I fly a lot, the odds of me dying are higher.

The gays love you. Why do you think that is?
It's not by choice. They took me and created me. It's not my fault - I blame the gays for who I am! I never went and sourced the gays, they hijacked my arse! The trans, drag and gay community is solely responsible for me. The gays always get the blame for everything, so I'm going to blame them for me too.

Have you always been a fan of flying?
Growing up in Australia as a '70s child, it was always something in our minds that was never attainable. A fantasy. If you had money, you could fly. But as far as my parents and I were concerned, the furthest we ever travelled was Point Lonsdale, which was a cheap seaside house with a rock pool in Melbourne. Back then, flying was glamorous. When you saw the flight attendants on Pan Am, it's something you'd always dream about back in Australia. The thing I liked the most was the design and marketing of Pan Am. The style, the logo and the optimism of that era were what really got me into flying. I hadn't really flown before - except to Sydney, which was an hour's flight - but now I'm a massive plane geek.

> "I never went and sourced the gays, they hijacked my arse! "

What's your favourite travel destination?
You can't beat going home. I live in New York now and I'm like a kid when I'm flying home. I don't understand why people have the blind shut on take off. I get very upset. I'm very passionate about the aircraft because I love planes and nothing beats flying home.
I never not get excited when I'm in the car on the way to the airport and see the city for the first time. Coming in to London is beautiful if you have a rare clear day. It's spectacular.

Which is your favourite airline and why?
You're going from success to success, but if push came to shove, would you choose to fly with budget airline Ryanair?
I don't really have a back-up plan, so hopefully not! I wouldn't say anything against Ryanair because those girls work really hard, but I could handle it for sure. Whenever push comes to shove, you've got to do what you've got to do. If it meant that I had to go on Ryanair, then I'd make the most of it. I'd probably enjoy it. The crew are pretty tough, so hats off to them for putting up with a bunch of horrible people.

Who would your ideal flight partner be?
Right now, I'd love Donald Trump! Just for the pure amusement!

If you had the choice of a famous chef to cook the in-flight food, who would it be?
Well, the likes of Gordon Ramsey and Jamie Oliver are all overdone. I'm bored of them all, and I'm bored of cooking shows in general. D'you know what? I'd get Colonel Sanders in and dish out buckets of KFC. There's nothing nicer than a bucket of chicken and fries. Imagine the smell of it wafting through the aircraft? Fuck the chef, get take-out!

Do you have any advice for people trying to join the Mile High Club?
Don't exchange email addresses. I've just done that with a guy I was snogging over the Pacific. His wife emailed me, in the guise of him, saying, "Did you tell my wife that you didn't fuck me in the toilets?" I replied saying, "No, I did fuck you!". I was just winding him up! As for a good position for sex in the air, it's on a flight with a fully flat bed. If you can get that double bed on Singapore Airlines, then that's the best way to do it. I don't want to go in those toilets at the best of times, let alone to fuck a stranger!

Do you think the use of laughing gas instead of oxygen during an in-flight emergency would be a better way to go?
I like the thrill of people being really panicked. I think a lot of people don't scream, and it goes silent when a plane is coming down in an emergency. But yes, I think laughing gas is a good idea. It'd be funny yet twisted.

Who do you prefer? First class, business or economy passengers?
In economy you get the hot guys. The ones that I like. The rough and ready. In Australia, we call them bogans. I like a hard-working panel-beater, for example. But when it comes to travelling, First Class is the only way to fly if you can afford it. If it's a short-haul flight, I'd certainly fly economy just for the hot trade.

What in-flight activity do you enjoy the most to pass the time?
I stay up if I can, as I hate sleeping on a plane. But my favourite activity has got to be drinking! Drinking with a Xanax. I like to give the crew a run for their money too. I'm like a kid on a plane. It's hard to keep me controlled.

Is there anything you haven't done on a plane that you'd like to?
Fly it! I'd love to fly a Boeing 747! I've been in the cockpit quite a few times, but I'd like the throttle at the point of no return on the runway. I'd love to pull the throttle and feel those four engines go into full capacity as we're taking off.

Finally, how do you deal with hecklers during your shows?
I just talk to them. It depends on the heckle and how stupid they are. If they're great heckles, then I embrace it and go into a whole conversation with them. I love heckles. If it's just someone yelling random shit out, then it makes no sense. Another example of a bad heckler is someone who interrupts the rhythm of a story. A good heckler is someone who comes in at the end - or who, if you ask them a question, responds with a funny answer that's funnier than my show!
You've got to embrace the heckle!

Pam Ann: Queen Of The Sky shows at Birmingham's **New Alexandra Theatre** on Thursday 19 November and at Nottingham's **Playhouse Theatre** on Saturday 21 November.

"You can take children on magical journeys in books that many adults would be reluctant to go on"

Zone talks to... David Walliams

Best known for his role in hit BBC comedy Little Britain, camp and much-loved comedian and Britain's Got Talent judge David Walliams also writes children's books. His best-seller, Gangsta Granny, has been adapted for the theatre by Birmingham Stage Company and this month heads out on tour.

Midlands Zone recently caught up with David to talk about the BSC adaptation, the challenge of writing for children - and what his own granny used to do that reminded him of a quacking duck...

What inspired Gangsta Granny, David?
When I was a child I'd spend lots of time with my grandmas. Sometimes I'd selfishly think spending time with them could be boring - but when I got them on a subject like living in London during World War Two, when bombs were raining down, they'd become very animated and I'd be enthralled. I realised everyone has a story to tell.

What were your grannies like, and are there any elements of their characters in Gangsta Granny?
There was definitely a smell of cabbages in one of my grandmas' houses. The other broke wind like a duck quacking when she walked across the room.

Many people would say there's a special bond between children and their grandparents. Why do you think that is?
I think grandparents love being grandparents because they get to give the children back to the parents! Children love spending time with their grandparents because they love hearing their stories and being allowed to stay up past their bedtime.

When did you decide to write children's fiction?
Ten years ago I had an idea for a story. What if a boy went to school dressed as a girl? I thought it would be a thought-provoking children's book. That became The Boy In The Dress, my first of eight children's novels.

What are the delights of writing children's fiction?
The only limitation in a children's book is your imagination. You can take children on magical journeys in books that many adults would be reluctant to go on.

And the challenges of writing for children?
Children love to be scared, but it can't be too horrifying. Children love to laugh, but it can't be too rude. You always have to be the right side of the line.

You've often talked about Roald Dahl. What do you think makes him special?
I think Dahl's books always feel a little bit forbidden. He manages to balance the humour and scary elements in his stories perfectly.

Which Dahl book do you particularly like and why?
The Twits is utterly hilarious. I love that it's a children's book with no child characters.

Which other children's writer did you enjoy as a child?
I loved Dr Seuss books, especially Green Eggs And Ham. His books are like nightmares come to life. They're rich and strange and utterly unlike anybody else's work.

What do you think children enjoy in your books?
I imagine they like the humour, and that I don't patronise them. I deal with quite big topics - cross-dressing, homelessness, grief. I know children are a lot smarter than most grown-ups think.

What are your feelings on seeing Gangsta Granny adapted for the stage?
It's a huge thrill seeing it have this whole new life. It's already been a TV film. People seem to really like the story. In fact, Gangsta Granny is my best-selling book by far.

Are there any particular challenges or difficulties with staging the story?
There's lots of action in Gangsta Granny, especially when they try to steal the Crown Jewels. The challenge is bringing those scenes to life.

Are there any scenes you're particularly looking forward to seeing on stage?
I like the characters of Ben's mum and dad. Their obsession with ballroom dancing should be funny, so I can't wait to see them brought to life.

Why were you keen to work with Birmingham Stage Company on the adaptation?
I saw their Horrible Histories show, which was superb. I loved the humour and the interaction with the audience, so I'm looking forward to seeing more of that.

What do you hope children will take away from watching Gangsta Granny on stage?
The moral of the story is, 'Don't assume old people are boring just because they're old'. In fact, they're likely to have had a much more interesting life than yours. Talk to old folk, listen to their stories. They're bound to be full of magic and wonder.

In what way do you think watching the stage show will be a different experience for children from reading the book?
The great thing about seeing Gangsta Granny on stage is that you'll get to share it with an audience. So hopefully you'll laugh and cry along with everyone else. That's what makes theatre so special.

What are the elements that make up a good theatrical production for children?
They need to be fun and fast-paced. Children like audience interaction. They like to be involved.

Strictly Come Dancing raises its head in Gangsta Granny. Would you like to be in the show and, if so, how would you rate your chances of holding the glitter ball?
I can't dance at all - as you might've seen in the TV adaptation of Gangsta Granny, when I tried to dance with Miranda Hart. So I'd say my chances are less than zero!

Birmingham Stage Company's adaptation of David Walliams' **Gangsta Granny** premieres at the **New Alexandra Theatre**, Birmingham, Mon 7 - Sat 12 December. It also visits the **Regent Theatre,** Wed 8 - Sat 11 June 2016, and returns to the **New Alexandra Theatre** Mon 27 June - Sat 2 July 2016.

THE TROCKS ARE

A moulting swan, a sleepwalking ballerina and a rock guitar-playing beggar woman: Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo do classical dance like you've never seen it before...

Since its inception in 1974, the company has gained global renown for its unique and irreverent productions. Through the magic of make-up, costume and intensive training, sixteen men are transformed into a company of (mostly) graceful ballerinas, performing excerpts from a range of familiar and not so familiar stories, from Swan Lake to Patterns in Space. The result is a hysterically funny parody of the heightened drama, grandeur and gravity of traditional ballet, mixing mischief with the profoundest respect for the form.

"We like to pay tribute to the old style of ballet - that's the sort of style we make fun of," says Chase Johnsey, a longstanding member of the company. "It can be educational. With some of the more obscure pieces like Laurencia, we've been the first to bring those shows to New York, even though it's a Russian classic."

Upon joining the Trocks, dancers are allocated male and female alter-egos, mainly Russian, which they develop through classes, rehearsals and performances.

"One of the things they look for when you audition for the Trocks is personality," Johnsey continues. "Because there are only ever fourteen to sixteen dancers in the company, one person coming or going changes the feel of the whole show."

The dancers' perfectly co-ordinated comedy takes the diva stereotype to extremes: when the Trocks step out on stage, the room is immediately dominated by their larger-than-life personae, expressions exaggerated by bold eyeshadow, thick lipstick and multi-layered lashes.

"Getting to put on a face and a wig is so different to just going out and performing," says Matthew Poppe, a more recent addition to the team. "When you put on the full costume, you instantly feel much more in character."

Speed and efficiency are essential to their mid-show transformations: no mean feat when successive roles require a gender swap. Thankfully, most character changes take place between acts - but it's not always that simple...

"In Don Quixote I have a really fast change," explains Johnsey. "It's just a few minutes, so I run off stage and they start ripping the costume straight off me! But it's all designed to be foolproof, so everything we need is put in place, ready for those quick changes."

Yet looks aren't everything, of course. As if sharp wit, faultless timing and the ability to sculpt a face with enviable perfection weren't enough, the Trocks are also highly skilled ballerinas, capable

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo perform at **Birmingham Hippodrome** on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 November.

BACK IN TOWN...

of sliding seamlessly from slapstick into virtuosic spectacle. They might have fun on stage but they take their training very seriously, and that diligence more than pays off their stunning performances are proof positive that it's not only women who can dance en pointe

"I've never wanted to work so hard before," says Poppe. "I feel like I've found people that I like to work with and I'm doing things I'm really passionate about."

He's clearly not the only one to feel a sense of belonging here. Just a few minutes in the dancers' friendly and entertaining company gives a distinct impression of real warmth and loyalty between them it's not so much camaraderie as family. There's more than one off-stage couple among them and those who sign up tend to stick around. Having been recruited at the tender age of seventeen, Johnsey has now been dancing with the Trocks for twelve years.

"In ballet school they told me I would never be a professional ballet dancer," he says, with a wry smile. "Because I'm quite small, I couldn't really lift the girls, so I only ever had a few little parts before I joined."

Then there's Philip Martin-Nelson, diagnosed with such severe autism at the age of three that his mother was urged to send him to a specialist residential institution. Ignoring the advice, she instead enrolled him in gymnastics and sports groups which she hoped might improve his co-ordination.

Three years later, he discovered his voice and life-long passion through dance classes: by the time he auditioned for the Trocks the artistic director Tory Dobrin, saw only an exceptionally talented seventeen-year-old, unaware of his complicated history.

In much the same way as the company's fresh approach provides new opportunities for performers, it can also help to open up ballet to wider audiences, challenging the perceptions of stuffiness or exclusivity that sometimes come with the territory.

"We really want to make it accessible and entertaining, and I think it's a great segue into understanding and appreciating traditional ballet," says Poppe. "There are a lot of jokes that are ballet-oriented so it can appeal to regular ballet-goers but there are also plenty of jokes that are just for everybody."

Far from undermining it, the Trocks breathe new life into ballet, defying expectations on all sides and winning the respect of the wider ballet community. Little wonder, then, they've developed a large cult following of fans young and old right across the world with some avid enthusiasts even turning up to watch their shows in costume.

"The reaction is always good," says Johnsey. "Culturally, people respond differently the Japanese are very polite and reserved, for example, whereas American and UK audiences tend to be more rowdy. We prefer that because it's more obvious that we're doing a good job. But people seem to really enjoy the show and we're always well-received wherever we go. We can hear the kids laughing a mile off!"

Birmingham gay-scene DJ took 'lethal combination' of drugs and alcohol, inquest told

Mykee Mackenzie, the Birmingham gay-scene DJ who was found dead in his flat in July, had taken a 'lethal combination' of drugs and alcohol, an inquest has heard.

Mykee, rea name Michael Horton, 34, who ived in a flat above B rmingham gay vi lage venue Missing Bar, where he worked, sent a text message to a friend say ng he was going to take "lots of p ls"
When concerned friends then contacted h m. Mykee mp ied he'd been lying

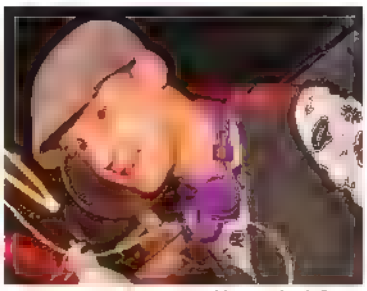
Emma Brown, Area Coroner said "The evi dence is that Mr Mackenzie had been drink ng steadily throughout the night. was getting agitated about losing his phone and was sending texts, almost ask ng for help I don t feel I can be sure that he intended his death to be the consequence of his actions. The fact that he was drink ng and getting ag tated raises the possibi ity that he d d n't fu y appreciate the risk he was taking at the t me he was taking the medicat on."

In conclusion Brown sa d "The deceased passed away on Monday 13 July this year at h s home as a result of self administering ex cess drugs and alcohol. This is a drugs and alcohol-related death."

A friend of Mykee s, Lewis Henderson. sa d n a statement that he d known Mykee for three years and that at times, the DJ suf fered from depression.

The pa r had arranged to meet at Miss ng Bar where they stayed until the early hours of the morn ng

Mr Henderson said n his statement: "He'd ost his phone after putting it next to a til. He



was getting really annoyed he couldn't find it."

Mr Henderson said that Mykee had got the staff of Missing Bar to look for h s mobile phone, also checking the venue's CCTV footage

He said he later discovered that the award winning Du had posted a message about the phone on social media.

Mr Henderson also said that he d received a text message from Mykee about taking a large number of p lls but the DJ had ended it by saying he was a 'l ar

Mr Henderson was concerned enough to go and check on Mykee, but thought he was just having a 'tantrum'

The inquest heard that Mykee was discov ered in his flat later in the day next to a number of empty packets of anti-psychotic tab ets

Mykee s funeral took place on Wednesday 12 August. It was attended by hundreds of people who wanted to pay their respects to the much-loved DJ.

Harvey Milk's nephew set for LGBT history festival in Shrewsbury

Organisers of the Shrews-bury-based Midlands hub of the second National Festival of LGBT History have announced that Stuart Milk, President of The Harvey Milk Foundation, will be a keynote speaker at their event, which runs from Friday 12 to Sunday 14 February 2016.

Stuart is the nephew of Harvey M lk, America s first openly gay elected official. Harvey s life and assassination - was the sub ject of the award-winn ng film, Milk, starring Sean Penn.

Stuart has been the recipient of numerous inter national awards for his global work for human and LGBT rights

In August 2009 he accepted the Presidential Medal of Freedom from Barack Obama on be half of his uncle. Harvey Milk was commemo rated on US postage stamps in 2014.

Organisers of the festival told Zone: "We heard Stuart Milk speak in Manchester last year, at the first National Festival of LGBT History. He is in spiring and passionate about continuing his uncle s vision and work on LGBT and other human rights globally. We're delighted that he'll be a keynote speaker at the festival."

The festiva.'s organ sers are hopeful that loca. schools and colleges wi l take the opportunity of a visit and talk by Stuart in the week before the festival weekend

Leicester theatre celebrates Promotion Of Diversity award win

Leicester's Curve Theatre has come out on top in the UK Theatre Awards' 'Promotion Of Diversity' category.

The venue won the award as a result of its work with LGBT, BME, youth and older audiences, as well as for its commitment to providing access to all income groups and disabilities.

The awards, held at London's historic Guild hall on Sunday 11 October, recognised Curve's commitment to making work that is truly representational and celebratory of the diverse communities that make up the Midlands.

Judges were impressed with Curve's Equality Action Plan, which focused on developing BME audiences and encouraging Youth engagement. The theatre's action plan featured the following:

34 performances of work specifically for, or by, BME communities and 46% of ticket buyers across all of Curve's produced work coming from BME backgrounds.

Engagement with 164 schools in Leicester and Leicestershire, and 14,700 students from DMU, with 190 performances at Curve made or tailored with young people.

The attendance of free or low-cost learning and participation activities by 3,000 young people.

The award also takes note of Curve's Artistic Strategy to forge strong and meaningful connections within our local community, engaging them as audience, visitor, participant and collaborator. This saw:

185 free activities and performances being held in Curve's public spaces, and 3,206 people taking part in free and low-cost Family Day activities.

Free space provided by Curve for 281 re hearsal sessions by three Affiliate Community Companies, all of whom are BME-focused.

Curve's commitment to the community and provision of access to great theatre was also recognised. Judges were given details of how Curve:

Staged eight performances of 'Beautiful Thing' with almost 2,000 people attending after-show discussions chaired by Stonewall and Leicester LGBT Centre.

Chief Executive, Chris Stanford, commented: "We're delighted that our commitment to the promotion of diversity has been recognised with this award. Commissioning, producing and programming work which truly reflects our communities is central to everything we do here at Curve. It is key to us introducing and encouraging new audiences into discovering amazing theatre that's right on their doorstep."

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Get out and get fit this Winter!

activate

Fitness taster day

Sunday 8th November, 1:30pm to 5:30pm

activity. Not sure what would suit you?
Experienced instructors and coaches will demonstrate and discuss a variety of activities with

boxercise, hula hooping, Zumba, Pilates, aerobics,

trainers will show us a 30 minute work out

Court Oak Road, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9TG

Book your FREE place now at www.blgbt.org

About Activate

Three year programme funded by Sport England's

activity within the LGBT community by supporting existing clubs and groups, developing clubs for new activities, and providing accessible classes,

returning to physical activity.

Telephone: 0121 643 0821
Email: activate@blgbt.org

Local LGBT Sports Clubs

Birmingham and the West Midlands hosts an

sports groups and clubs such as Birmingham Bluefins Waterpolo a great workout & swimming plus a team game played for fun

Tuesday of each month from 9pm.

Bluefins
Birmingham Bluefins Waterpolo
Web moseleyshoals.org.uk

Moseley Shoals
Web moseleyshoals.org.uk

Birmingham Swifts
Web birminghamswifts.co.uk

Birmingham Bulls RFC
Web birminghambullsrfc.co.uk

Birmingham City Blaze FC
Web birminghamcityblaze.com

Midlands Out Badminton
Web midlandsoutbadminton.co.uk

Boot Women
Boot Women
Web bootwomen.org.uk

Rainbow Rambles
Email RainbowRamblesUK@gmail.com

Outdoor Lads
Web outdoorlads.com

Table Tennis
Held weekly at Birmingham LGBT

Line Dancing
Held weekly at Birmingham LGBT

Birmingham LGBT

SPORT ENGLAND

PRIDE IN SPORT

PUREGYM

Super early-buy tickets go on sale for 20th Birmingham Pride festival this month

The first set of 'early buy' tickets for the 20th Birmingham Pride festival - which takes place on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 May 2016 - go on sale on Friday 6 November at 10am.

Birmingham Pride organisers hailed this year's festival the biggest and most successful event ever.

Over 75,000 spectators turned out to support the parade through the city centre, while over 60,000 party revellers enjoyed the two-day festival in the city's gay village.

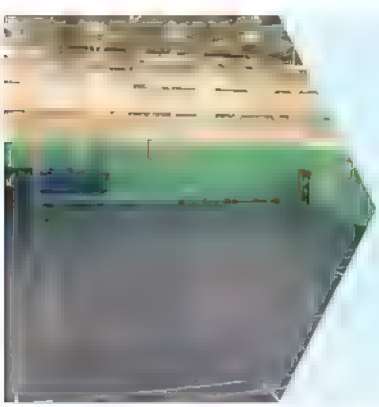
The event also featured its biggest ever line-up of over 100 performers and DJs. Headline acts included Jess Glynne, Example, Heather Small, Atomic Kitten and Jimmy Somerville.

With 2016's Pride being the 20th, organisers are looking to make it the biggest and best yet. Despite not releasing any information about who may be appearing at the milestone event, they've confirmed that there are some big surprises planned.

Festival Director **Lawrence Barton** said: "We were absolutely blown away by the response to this year's Birmingham Pride. The sheer number of people who attended the fantastic Carnival Parade through the city centre, as well as the tens of thousands who partied in Birmingham's gay village, showed us just how far our community has come since the first Birmingham Pride back in 1997.

"Because of this, and next year's event being such a special one, the entire Birmingham Pride team is working hard to bring the very best names to the city for our 20th festival. We've got some great names in the pipeline who we're sure Pride-goers will love!"

Early-buy tickets, which will be available to purchase at www.theticketsellers.co.uk from 10am on Friday 6 November, are priced at £9 (plus booking fee) for a Saturday or Sunday day ticket, £15 (plus booking fee) for a Weekend ticket and £45 (plus booking fee) for a VIP Weekend ticket.



Birmingham LGBT announces free drop-in sports taster day

As part of Birmingham LGBT's Activate initiative - promoting sports and fitness for LGBT people - a free drop-in taster session is being held this month.

The free event, which takes place on Sunday 8 November, is designed for members of the LGBT community who are thinking of taking up a physical activity or are simply wanting to try something new.

The drop-in session takes place between 1.30pm and 5.30pm in the state-of-the-art sports hall at Queen Alexandra's College in Harborne.

Attendees can discuss, join in or just watch a wide variety of fitness classes and sports. There's no set time to arrive and visitors are welcome to stay as long as they want.

Organisers are keen for as many people as possible to take advantage of the event. While not absolutely necessary, those interested in attending are encouraged to book by calling Activate on 0121 643 0821.

Chesterfield
PRIDE
Fundraiser
Live on Stage
ANGIE BROWN
EVA IGLESIAS
KELLY WILDE
JASON PRINCE
STEVIE MOORE
SIMON CROSS
LAURA COMFORT
JOSEPH NEELEY
MISS C
ETHEL
CANDY DU KANE
ELLA VA NIGHT
16th December 2015
CANDY
Tickets : £12.50/£10 ADV DOORS OPEN: 7PM
Winding Wheel, Chesterfield, S41 7SA
WAIKIKI BEACH BAR
TICKET INFORMATION: F/Chesterfieldpride chesterfieldpride@hotmail.com chfldpride

THE SMASH-HIT MUSICAL
hairspray
MON 14 DEC - SAT 2 JAN
ROCKY HORROR Show
MON 25 - SAT 30 JAN
Breakfast at Tiffany's
JULIAN CLARY
WED 27 APR
Footloose
MON 4 - SAT 9 JUL
Sister Act
MON 12 - SAT 17 SEP
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BIRMINGHAM
WORLD CLASS THEATRE
ATG TICKETS
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GROUPS 10+
0844 871 3031
www.atgtickets.com/birmingham

KWIK PRICK
Kwik Prick is a free rapid HIV test for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities and is available at Trade every Monday* from 12 noon until 6pm.
Kwik Prick:
Free and confidential
Uses only a finger prick blood sample
Result within minutes
99.7% accurate
May detect HIV exposure from as little as 4 weeks ago
TRACE
Drop in service every Monday*, 12 noon until 6pm
Appointments can be made for other days
Location: Trade, 2nd Floor,
27 Bowling Green Street, Leicester, LE1 6AS
For more information call us on 0116 254 1747
or visit us at www.tradesexualhealth.com
*Kwik Prick is not available on Public Holidays
Trade Charity Number 1081582

HATE DOESN'T BELONG HERE
DISABILITY
RACE
RELIGION
SEXUAL ORIENTATION
TRANSGENDER
REPORT IT
WWW.REPORT-IT.ORG.UK
POLICE
HATE CRIMES CAN RECEIVE HARSHER SENTENCES
STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE
Ministry of JUSTICE
101
WWW.REPORT-IT.ORG.UK

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ZONE
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Midlands LGBTs urged to take a test during National HIV Testing Week

Midlands-based members of the gay community are being urged to take a HIV test during this month's National HIV Testing Week.

National HIV Testing Week, starting on Saturday 21 November, is an annual campaign to encourage people at risk from HIV to get tested in England. This year's campaign is endorsed by Terrence Higgins Trust's official ambassador Dr Christian Jessen.

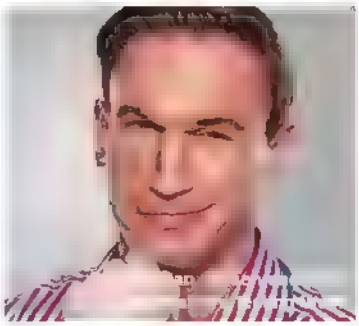
Testing for HIV is really important. If you test positive early on, you can get treatment to help you avoid serious damage to your health. HIV drugs also make people less infectious, so can cut the number of new infections.

Most people with HIV get it from someone who doesn't realise they have it, so it's important to test regularly.

Facts & Figures about HIV

If you delay testing, your life could be cut short by ten years.

Eight out of ten gay men get HIV from a man who doesn't know he's got it.



The age group in which most gay men test HIV positive is 25 to 29.

Where to test

There are plenty of clinics in the Midlands where you can test for HIV - as well as for a range of other sexually transmitted infections. Many of these clinics are run by Terrence Higgins Trust, with some offering rapid HIV tests that take only a couple of minutes.

Find your closest THT clinic by visiting www.tht.org.uk.

Bring out the popcorn as Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra heads to the movies

Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra (BGSO) will be playing music from the movies at the city's Adrian Boult Hall on Sunday 29 November, performing the scores from Pirates Of The Caribbean, Star Wars, James Bond and many other films.

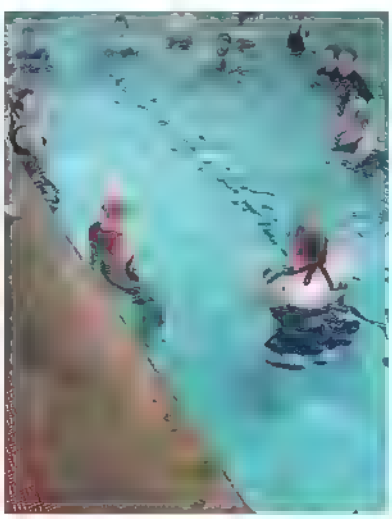
BGSO is riding high after its Pride Proms concert back in May - and now the Midlands LGBT orchestra is back at Birmingham Conservatoire for this sure-to-be-popular concert.

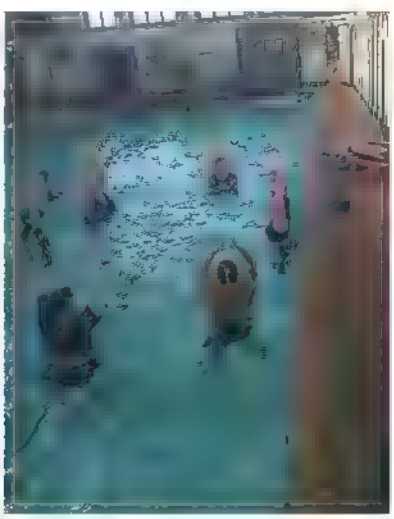
With the blockbuster sound of Lord Of The Rings, the gorgeous melodies of E.T. and the heartwrenching music from Schindler's List all included, there's something for everyone - it's a real movie lover's selection.

To book tickets, head online at www.bgso.org.uk (standard adult tickets £10 in advance. Family tickets, student tickets and concessions available).

If you're interested in taking part in a BGSO concert, visit www.bgso.org.uk for more information.

Trans* swimming sessions: A new trans* swimming group comes to Birmingham!





Birmingham's first Trans* only swimming session took place last month.

It was hosted by TAGS with support from Birmingham LGBT and local LGBT swimming group the Moseley Shoals.

Roberta Francis, TAGS' Project Manager told Midlands Zone: "TAGS started just over a year ago, holding its first ever session in Lewisham. It was evident from the attendance that the swimming was a success. It's given the South East Trans* community a safe place to swim every week. As project manager, I've always felt that TAGS should have more spaces. TAGS Leicester was started, so I thought, 'Why not TAGS Birmingham?'

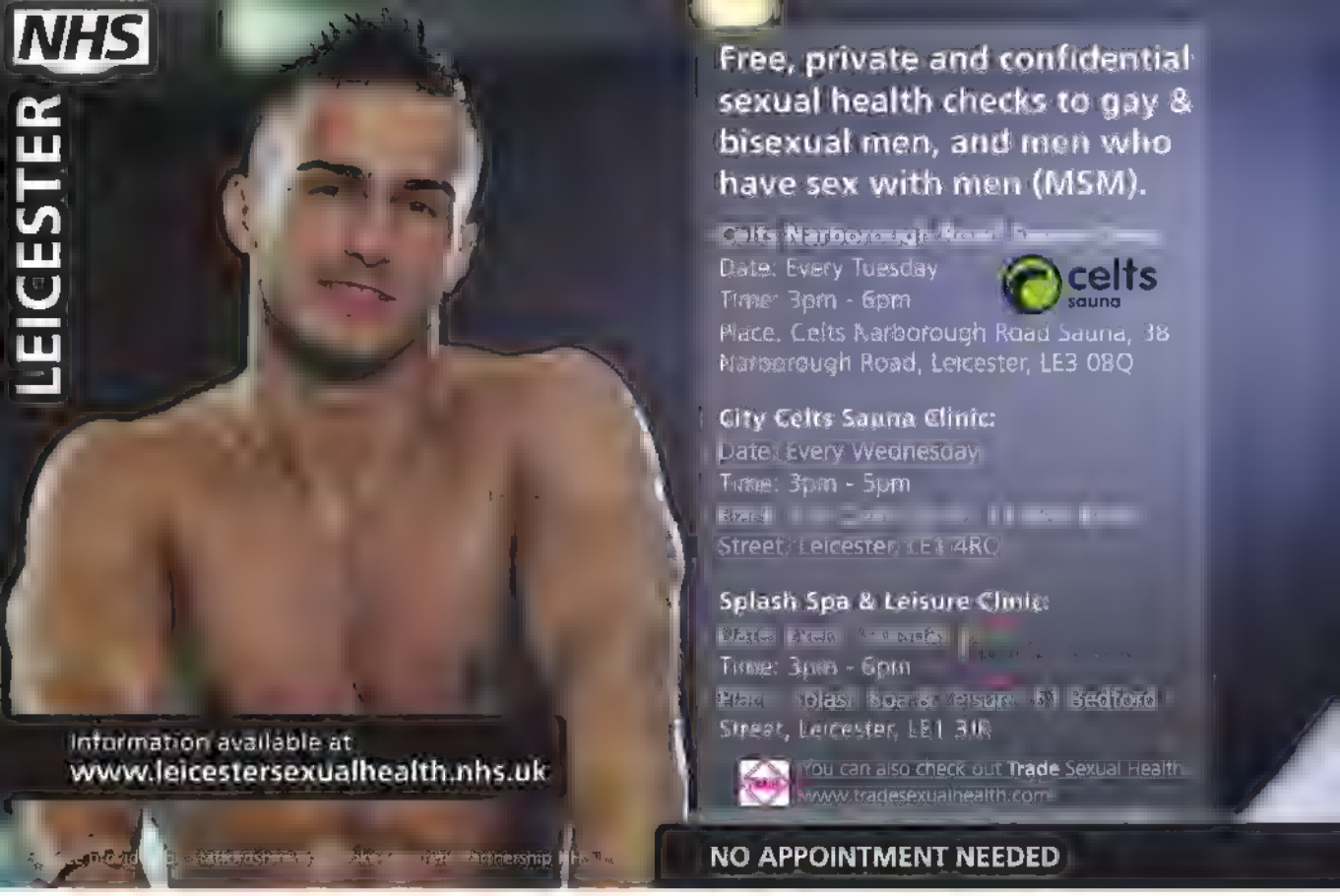
"Myself and other TAGS colleagues finally spotted Moseley Road Baths after lugging bags and banners back from four bus stops too far. No one's fault, just one of those things! Sighing with relief, hesitant and nervous, I walked quickly, wondering how many swimmers we had. How surprised was I when I opened the pool doors to see a packed space. The hard work had paid off.

"The pool was an array of colour as thirty swimmers from all over the West Midlands, Leicester, Nottingham and London enjoyed a splash. People got involved in the optional Aqua Yoga with fun and enthusiasm.

"The hour went quickly, and it was great to all head back to the Birmingham LGBT Centre for food, tea and community cohesion.

"Feedback on social media has been very positive, and we hope to hold regular sessions in the future. One person commented, 'Thanks to the organisers for bringing TAGS to Birmingham, I had a lovely time, hopefully it will continue.'"

For more information about TAGS, visit www.blgbt.org.


NHS
LEICESTER
Free, private and confidential sexual health checks to gay & bisexual men, and men who have sex with men (MSM).
Celts Narborough Road
Date: Every Tuesday
Time: 3pm - 6pm
Place: Celts Narborough Road Sauna, 38 Narborough Road, Leicester, LE3 0BQ
celts sauna
City Celts Sauna Clinic:
Date: Every Wednesday
Time: 3pm - 5pm
Street, Leicester, LE1 4RQ
Splash Spa & Leisure Clinic:
Time: 3pm - 6pm
Street, Leicester, LE1 3JR
You can also check out Trade Sexual Health
www.tradesexualhealth.com
Information available at
www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk
NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

Lesbian Gay
GALAXY
Staffordshire and
For more info
info@galaxyyouth.co.uk
0300 123 0970
GayLife
Galaxy is a youth group for young people aged 19 and under from Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or unsure.
Gay Galaxyyouth Centre

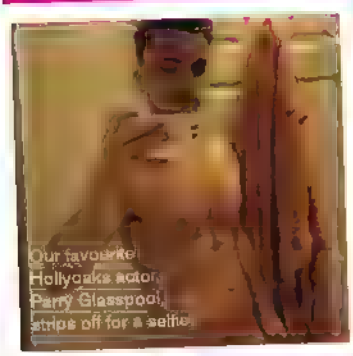
THE VIRAL ROUND UP

HERE'S WHAT WE VE BEEN LOOKING AT ONLINE...

We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

CELEB SNAPS!

OUR FAVOURITE PICTURES FROM INSTAGRAM...

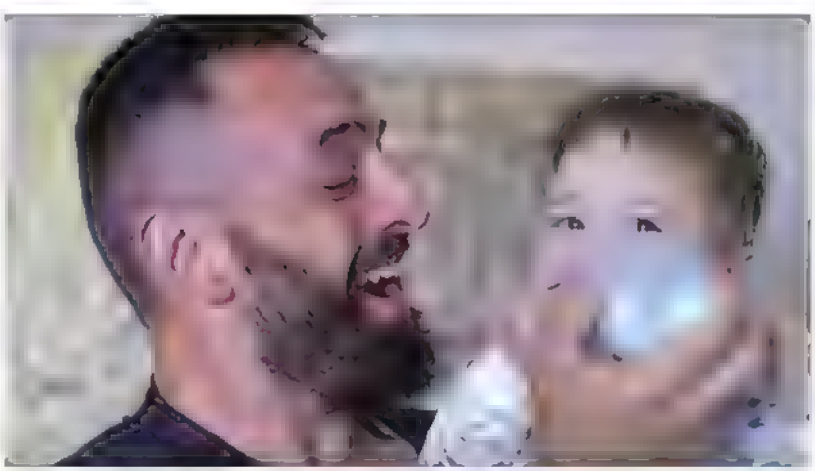


Gay tourists ask Spanish people to translate HOMOPHOBIC LETTER with astounding reactions!

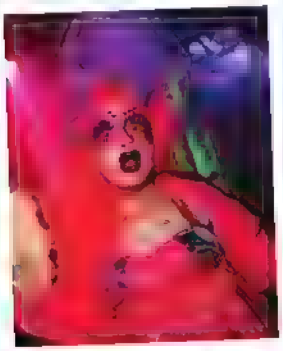
As part of a campaign by Spain's State Federation of Lesbians, Gays, Transsexuals and Bisexuals, the video sees a young American gay couple looking for help in translating a note.

The couple ask locals in Madrid what it says, with astounding reactions. It turns out the letter is from their hostel landlord, is full of homophobic hatred towards them and threatens violence. The people of Madrid give great advice whilst also being shocked by the content of the letter. It's well worth a watch youtu.be/dAb_xYVNHOM

WATCH THIS! A cute 'day in the life' video of two gay dads and their son!



There's nothing we like more than a video with cuteness overload! That's why, when we came across this video of two gay dads and their son, our hearts melted and we just knew we had to share it with you! The video was made by Gays With Kids - a support group for gay dads and men considering fatherhood. Check out the video here: youtu.be/fKIGNIGmfOM



Queeny

'Door Whore' and member of the Housewives Of Birmingham,
The Nightingale, Birmingham

Born: Wolverhampton
Star sign: Taurus
Age: Never you mind

About Queeny

Where did you grow up, Queeny?
I grew up in Wolverhampton, with my parents, my sister and a series of family pets.

Single or attached?
Depends who's asking.

What makes you happy?
Vodka, cigarettes, the rag market, likes on Facebook. Oh, and I suppose my friends.

What makes you sad?
Kitten heels. Especially when the wearer of said garment is walking on the sides of them so the stubby heel is on a 45-degree angle.

What makes you angry?
People who take selfies without the flash on. I don't sprinkle all that glitter on for it to be missed in the picture. Jokes aside, I really don't like any form of inequality. I think we as gay people can sometimes focus on our inequalities to the detriment of supporting other groups of people who need some back up.

If you could change any one thing about yourself, what would it be?
I wish I wasn't paying for that gym membership, the one I haven't made use of in a long time. It's not that I'm desperate to lose weight and/or tone up, but I have a list of other things I wouldn't mind spending that money on. Telling myself I'll start going again honest means I'm actually lying to myself and I really don't like fibbers.

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?
I once fell over outside Brantano in town, during the morning rush hour. Fortunately, I did it with a little grace, and as quick as my toosh hit the deck I was back up on my feet.

Now that same-sex marriage has been legalised, would you consider getting married?
If he's a millionaire celebrating his 102nd birthday, then yes. Otherwise it isn't something I can picture happening any time soon. I'm not in a relationship and I would only marry someone if I felt 100% about it. I'd hate to be a divorce statistic.

Coming Out

When did you first know you were gay?
When I was 13. I always knew there was something about me but I never had the word for it. I got the word from Big Brother 2. I watched Brian Dowling flirting with that Josh (he has these awful white jeans with red embroidery all over them) and it dawned on me that's what I was.

When did you come out?
As soon as I had the name for it and was pretty certain about it, I told my girlfriends at school one lunchtime whilst we sat outside the English block. It was such an exhilarating feeling to say the words that I then wrote 'I am gay' on my homework log in maths that afternoon and sent it round the class.
My mum found some choice images on the computer when I was 15. She sat me down to tell me that she knew and that it was okay. I asked her not to tell my dad but she already had.
My nan found out because one of my cousins found my faceparty profile stating I was gay and thought I was being bullied. She rang my mum in a panic. When my mum told her I wasn't being bullied she simply asked, 'Why hasn't he told me?' I love her for that.

What was school like for you as a gay teenager?
I had a really good time at school. I was fortunate that bullying was always nipped in the bud as soon as it started. I was able to make people laugh, which made me pretty popular. I was also at the centre of most gossip, so I was able to retain embarrassing information about people, which I could then announce to the class if someone dared say anything to me.

Have you ever had any experiences with the opposite sex?
I kissed a girl one New Year. I was 17 at the time and I'd done stuff with guys, but I really wanted to see what it was like to kiss a girl. She thought it was funny I'd asked and agreed. We kissed really awkwardly, and I can 100% confirm I'm completely gay. Kisses require stubble.

Who was the first person you told you were gay, and what was their reaction?
Four girls at school. All they wanted to know was who I fancied. I've never had a negative response when I've told someone I'm gay.

Your Career

What's the Housewives Of Birmingham?
A group of four drag queens who sit on the four points of the drag compass. We're a drag family who give people something to take a selfie with.

How did the Housewives Of Birmingham start?
The Nightingale thought it would be a good idea to have hostesses in the venue. They already had Marty (our mother) but they wanted some 'door whores'. We'd never met each other, and it's really fortunate that we all get on. We've been at the club for over a year now. It's really nice to get messages from people on Saturday night asking which housewife is working.

What do you do?
We're there to make sure everyone has a good time. We greet people as they come in, and then we party with them until the early hours. We're not just glittery cross dressers, though (Lacey Lou is a girl, for starters). In the past, I've helped people approach someone they fancy, helped people to find their friends, been used as something to hide behind when someone's spotted their ex, done a video birthday message, and put someone who'd never been to Birmingham – and who'd lost their friends – into a taxi home with £4, because they had no money.

What's the best part of the job?
Being given a legitimate excuse to dress up. I was dancing in the mirror in my nan's skirts from the age of six – now I get paid for it.

What's your favourite look?
I don't have a favourite look. I tend to make something new roughly once a week. My current project will always be my favourite at that particular time. However, I did a McDonalds look last Pride which people still talk about today. I had a Big Mac and fries in my wig.

Have you ever pulled in drag?
I rather not talk about it!

Gay Scene

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay scene?
Eleven years. I first started going out when I was 16, to Sky Bar in Wolverhampton. It was so exciting to be surrounded by so many other gay people. I started coming to Birmingham when I was 17. It didn't take long for the door staff at the Gaze to ID me, though.

Then I had to have a little break until I was 18.

And what's your fondest memory of the gay scene?

The summer when white linen trousers with black vests was a thing. I miss mullet haircuts too. My first Pride was pretty special, though - although it was really hot and the tops of my thighs rubbed. It was before they invented Lanacane gel.

Who's your favourite cabaret act on the gay scene?

Laquisha Jonz. I like Charlie Hide's other characters, but she's my favourite. I also love Tilly. My mum used to watch her at strip per shows and loved her. She got really excited when I finally met Tilly - it was like I'd met a celebrity.

Who's your favourite person on the gay scene?

In terms of drag, Twiggy. I find her a huge source of inspiration, and she's just a really nice person too.

What do you enjoy most about the gay scene?

Girls Aloud megamixes. And I love the mix of people - there's always a friendly atmosphere.

What have you noticed about the way the gay scene's changed over the years?

It's more mixed, which I feel is a positive change. I don't like the attitude that straight people shouldn't be here. As a community, we've been fighting for equality for a long time. Now that we've, in a general sense, achieved that, why would we treat straight people the way we were treated?

How would you change the Midlands gay scene?

I'd like the keyboard warriors who bitch about the scene, but who you never see out supporting it, to actually come out. It's basic maths - you can't moan that the scene's 'smaller than Manchester's' if nobody goes out, puts money in the till or creates a demand for more bars and clubs.

Time Out

Where do you like to go on a night out?

On a rare night off, I like to go to

The Fox and The Village. I always say we won't end up in the Gale because I'm there every other week, but we always end up in there.

What do you do to relax?

I enjoy making my outfits. It's something that I can focus on to forget about everything else. Everyone in my house knows that if you can hear the hum of my sewing machine, you don't come in.

What do you enjoy on telly?

Watercolour Challenge.

What was the last album or track you bought?

Connie Talbot's Three Little Birds. Check it out on YouTube. It's rare I buy music. If I want to listen to music, I'll put the radio on.

What app do you spend the most time using?

Scruff.

What type of holiday do you prefer?

I prefer culture and experience to lying in the sun. I'd much rather go somewhere and experience the place. I can't see the sense of going to Spain and not trying paella...

Quickfire

Who's your favourite actor?

Jane Slaughter - she plays Tracey, the barmaid in EastEnders.

What's your favourite book?

The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

Half empty or half full?

Neither. My glass is always empty.

What's your favourite food?

I haven't eaten since Mr Egg shut down.

And how about your favourite drink?

Dirty pints.

Madonna or Lady Gaga?

Nadine Coyle.

If you could take a selfie with one person, alive or dead, who would it be?

Fred Phelps - because opposites attract.

NATIONAL
HIV
STARTS
31 JULY
2015
TESTING
WEEK
I'm
testing
Dr Christian
Get tested: it's fast, easy, confidential and could save
your life. Order a free postal test or find where to test at:
StartsWithMe.org.uk
Terrence
Higgins
Trust
startswithme
@startswith_me
#ImTesting
IT STARTS
WITH
ME

WORLD AIDS DAY

A TIME FOR EDUCATION, REFLECTION & CELEBRATION

AIDS first came to light some 34 years ago. World AIDS Day (Monday 1 December), now in its 28th year, is dedicated to raising people's awareness of HIV AIDS across the globe.

The global health day was the first of its kind and came about as a result of the 1988 World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention. Ever since then, governments, charities, non-government organisations and international groups have implemented numerous campaigns which combine globally every 1 December.

The whole concept is about raising money, increasing awareness, fighting prejudice and improving education. It's estimated that more than 34million people worldwide are living with HIV, including over two million children. In the UK, over 100,000 people are living with the virus, and the rate of infection continues to rise each year.

The Midlands has always taken a proactive role in promoting the day, with numerous health organisations and charities hitting the streets of the region's towns and cities to talk about HIV, AIDS, sexual health and the need to break down the stigma attached to the virus.

Birmingham's newest sexual health service, Umbrella - in partnership with Birmingham LGBT - has a number of events taking place to commemorate the occasion.

A candlelit walk through Birmingham city centre culminates in an hour of reflection and celebration to mark World AIDS Day on Tuesday 1 December. The walk starts with light refreshments and mince pies at Pure Bar & Kitchen, 30 Waterloo Street. The walkers then make their way to St Philip's Cathedral for music, dance and presentations, to recognise the strength of those affected by and living with HIV and AIDS - and to remember those who've been lost.

David Viney, Health & Wellbeing manager at Birmingham LGBT, said: "We're aiming to bring together professionals working in sexual health and HIV support with people who've experienced first-hand the issues around living with HIV.

"Hopefully the candlelit walk will help to raise awareness to a wider audience."

In the weeks leading up to World AIDS Day, Umbrella partners are raising awareness of HIV AIDS through a series of education and arts workshops in schools and colleges. Topics such as prejudice, myths, stigma, testing and treatment will be addressed via exercises, games and quizzes, with evaluation and feedback after the sessions.

During HIV Testing Week (22 - 30 November), Umbrella is hosting a number of sessions within clinics and with outreach staff and key partners. Testing will be available for ages 17 plus, with Birmingham LGBT staging pop-up clinics at clubs and bars across the city.

If you would like to take part in the World AIDS Day event, email umbrella@uhb.nhs.uk

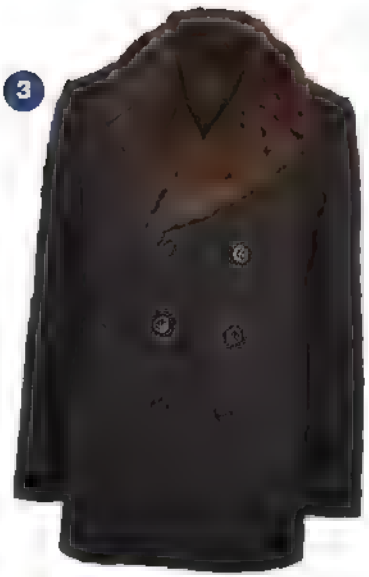
SPECIAL WORLD AIDS DAY SCREENING OF ALIVE!

Over in Shropshire, the folks behind the highly successful Rainbow Film Festival are hosting a special World AIDS Day screening of the documentary, Alive!

The risk and adrenaline rush of skydiving can heighten the feeling of being alive. In this compelling documentary, five HIV positive gay men spend a week preparing for their first solo parachute jump. The camaraderie inspired by the rigorous training and team-building exercises encourage the men to share their feelings about being seropositive - their reactions to finding out, their thoughts about ongoing treatments, and the ways they negotiate relationships with men who are not positive. But as the skydiving day approaches, doubts emerge. Will they all make the jump?

Filled with humour and breathtaking aerial photography, Alive! is a reminder of the value of life and of the need to live it to the full.

The movie shows at The Hive, Shrewsbury, on Tuesday 1 December at 8pm. For more information and tickets, visit www.rainbowfilmfestival.org.uk



GET YA COAT!

Wrap up warm this winter!

01 Cotton Blend Parka

Lightly padded parka in a cotton blend with a lined drawstring hood, zip and wind flap with press-studs at the front, a concealed drawstring at the waist and an adjustable tab and press-stud at the cuffs.

£49.99
www.hm.com

02 Padded Gilet

Quilted, padded gilet in woven fabric with imitation leather details, a stand-up collar with adjustable metal fasteners, buttons down the front and patch pockets with a flap and press-stud.

£29.99
www.hm.com

03 Dark Grey Double-Breasted Winter Peacoat

Taking inspiration from traditional naval uniforms, this double-breasted peacoat is a smart option for the cold weather. Its soft, faux-fur trim makes this a seriously luxe version

£95.00
www.riverisland.com

04 Khaki Traditional Parka

Opt for a classic with this khaki parka for the colder seasons. Featuring faux fur trim, hooded design, simple long sleeves and a casual fit. This Parka has a zip front and popper fastening.

£49.99
www.newlook.com

05 Teal Parka with Faux Fur

Teal parka with detachable faux fur hood trim, featuring zip and button closure and internal drawcords.

£65.00
www.burton.co.uk

06 Grey wool-blend smart military coat

Made from a premium wool blend this smart, military-style coat features a button-up front, long sleeves and four external pockets.

£85.00
www.riverisland.com

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TECH ON THE GO!

01 LG G4

The all-new LG G4 provides an exceptional visual experience thanks to its ground-breaking camera and display. At an impressive 16MP you'll be shooting great pictures to cherish for years.

From Free
www.lg.com

02 Microsoft Surface Pro 4

This latest iteration of the Microsoft Surface Pro 4 features a 12.3-inch PixelSense touchscreen display and runs on the latest Windows 10 Pro operating system. It's a great device for an office on the move!

£749.00
www.microsoftstore.com

03 Hoboard

As seen in magazines and on social media, these two wheeled balance boards are a great mode of transport with a speed of up to 12mph. Easy to control, you'll be whizzing along in no time.

£299.00
www.hoboard.co.uk

04 Pebble Time Round

This great-looking smartwatch is one of the best on the market. At just 7.5mm thin, it looks and feels like a conventional watch but alerts you to a whole host of mobile phone notifications, such as calls and messages.

£229.99
www.pebble.com

05 LG Nexus 5X

With its 5.2 inch display the new LG Nexus 5X delivers you a pure Android experience. With new fingerprint sensing technology, it's the securest phone you'll ever have. A great camera ensures you'll capture great shots too!

£339.00
store.google.com

06 Huawei Nexus 6P

Much like the LG Nexus 5X, the Huawei Nexus 6P is its larger counterpart, featuring a beautiful all-metal design, an incredible 5.7 inch AMOLED display and, of course, Android 6.0 Marshmallow.

Coming Soon
store.google.com

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at cam4.co.uk

LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE

01 Zuo Sapphire 20-Light Ceiling Lamp

The Zuo Sapphire 20-Light Ceiling Lamp has a bold, unique, contemporary appearance. It makes a great light for the home of a science fiction fan – or for anyone who simply likes something that stands out as special.

£639.00
bedbathandbeyond.com

02 PS 2014

You can easily switch between a brighter general light and a softer mood light by just pulling the strings. Gives decorative patterns on the ceiling and wall.

£70.00
ikea.com

03 Malmo White Rattan Ceiling Light

The Malmo white rattan ceiling light creates the perfect focal point in your living room.
The statement pendant light has a natural and organic shape and gives a soft, diffused light.

£140.00
habitat.co.uk

04 Arnett 3 Cluster Light with Black Shades

Simple yet effective, the Arnett black 3 cluster ceiling light is a set of 3 mini tapered lampshades suspended from a triple drop light fitting with fabric covered cables.

£65.00
habitat.co.uk

05 ELK Lighting Desert Winds 6 Light Pendant

Individuality is what defines this exquisite line of hand-blown glass. Each piece is meticulously hand-blown with up to three layers of uncompromising beauty and style.

£868.00
bedbathandbeyond.com

06 Hektar Pendant Lamp

This lamp gives a pleasant light for dining and spreads a good, directed light across your dining or bar table.

£19.99
ikea.com

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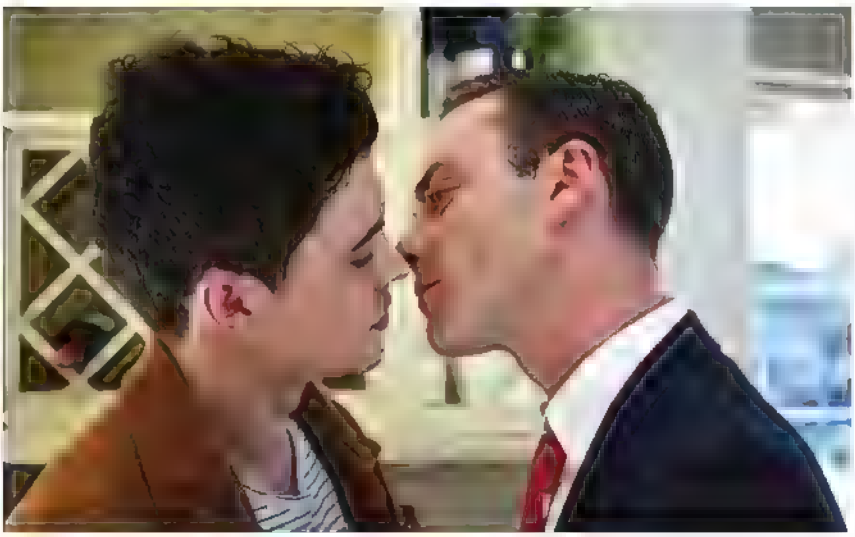
That's Entertainment!

This month's hot new DVD, music and book releases



DVD SOFT LAD (15)

Twenty-two-year-old David has it all - he's young, hot, and has just got into the prestigious dance school of his dreams. But he has a secret. For two years he's been sleeping with his sister's husband, Jules. After an argument between the two lovers, David throws himself into a one-night stand with Sam, a casual encounter which fast becomes something much stronger.

Unable to express his feelings to anyone, Jules is slowly driven mad by his desire for David and his jealousy of the latter's new-found public relationship. When David's sister, Jane, insists he brings his new boyfriend over for dinner, Jules snaps, revealing in turn a secret which none of them can ignore.

The movie is available on DVD and on-demand from Monday 12 October

DVD CROCADYKE DUNDEE (TBC)

Dawn O'Donnell was a convent girl who became a professional ice skater, travelled the world and then landed up in 1950s Australia, a penniless lesbian. By the time of her death in 2007, she had stormed through Sydney's gay underworld and built herself an empire of bars, clubs, steam rooms, sex shops and drag shows, in the process inspiring The Adventures Of Priscilla, Queen Of The Desert. This fascinating documentary explores the mythology and life of this shrewd, silver-haired, butch businesswoman.

Available on DVD from Monday 23 November.

BOOK THE LADYBIRD BOOK OF THE HIPSTER by Joel Morris & Jason Hazeley

This delightful and hilarious offering is one of many in a series of adult Ladybird books which have been specially planned to help, er, grown-ups with the world around them.

The large, clear script, the careful choice of words, the frequent repetition and the thoughtful matching of text with pictures all enable grown-ups to think they've taught themselves to cope.

The eight books in the series feature original Ladybird artwork alongside brilliantly funny, brand new text. Other books in the series are The Ladybird Book of Mindfulness, The Ladybird Book of Dating, The Ladybird Book of Sheds, The Ladybird Book of the Mid-Life Crisis, The Ladybird Book of the Hangover, How it Works: The Husband and How it Works: The Wife.

MUSIC MADE IN THE A.M.

by One Direction

The band's fifth studio album, Made In The A.M. features the single Drag Me Down. The Ultimate Fan Edition includes the deluxe album, which features four extra tracks and more.

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MARVELLOUS MOVEMBER

There may be stubble ahead...

It's November, and that can mean only one thing - yep, it's time to grow a moustache to show your support for Movember! For the duration of the month, pledge your support and raise money and awareness for prostate and testicular cancer charities by growing your very own moustache! But before you do, check out our tash-tastic guide to styling tips and the best products to use while growing your mo...

MOUSTACHE TIPS

Cleaning

Shampoo and condition regularly. Your moustache will collect a lot of food, no matter how fine it is! As the hair is coarse, it's good to condition it often, to make it nice and soft. Great for you to touch and even nicer for those intimate moments!

Equipment

It's important that you get the right equipment to get the job done - from scissors and combs to a decent mirror, a razor and maybe even some moustache wax! Take a look at our recommended products below to get you started on your Moventure!

Trimming

When it comes to tidying up your moustache, dampen the hair - it'll make it easier to trim. Comb your moustache, making sure the hair is tidy. Use barber scissors to trim the longer, stray hairs. If you want to shorten it, run clippers over the top.

Styling

Use a new, sharp razor to highlight the outer lines of the moustache. Make sure you're quite conservative in doing this - you can always go over it again. If you want a more elaborate style, use a decent moustache wax to shape it into place.

Be aware!

Your moustache will collect bits and pieces throughout the day, so be aware of troublesome foods and drinks - milk, frothy coffee, Guinness and ales, flaky pastry, candy floss and sticky buns. Carry your comb - just in case.

ESSENTIAL PRODUCTS

01 Captain Fawcett's Moustache Wax
Captain Fawcett's superior moustache wax is handmade in England to an original recipe using only the finest natural ingredients. Formulated to help gentlemen keep a stiff upper lip!
£8.30 www.amazon.co.uk

02 Kent Extra Small Moustache Comb
This handmade 73mm fine-tooth moustache and beard comb is the perfect companion on your month-long moustache adventure.
£4.50 www.kentbrushes.com

03 Tweezerman Moustache Scissors
Tweezerman Stainless Steel Moustache scissors feature sharp, straight blades for precise trimming of moustache, beard and brow hairs. Large finger loops provide added control.
£10.95 www.amazon.co.uk

04 Merkur Long Handled Classic Razor
Although light, this chrome finish, long-handled double-edged razor is built to last and boasts the craftmanship synonymous with the Merkur name. **£25.99**
www.shaving-shack.com

05 John Lewis Black Shaving Mirror
For a super-smooth shave choose this stand mirror with times-seven magnification
£32.00 www.johnlewis.com

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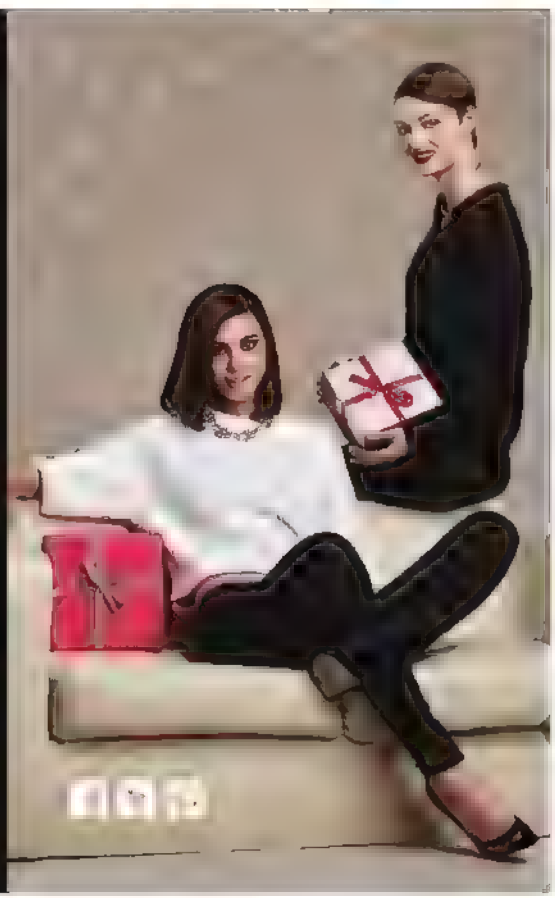


SHOUT

FESTIVAL OF QUEER ARTS & CULTURE, BIRMINGHAM

12 – 22 NOVEMBER 2015

Birmingham LGBT

www.shoutfestival.co.uk

@shoutfestival

Birmingham City Council

FESTIVALS BIRMINGHAM

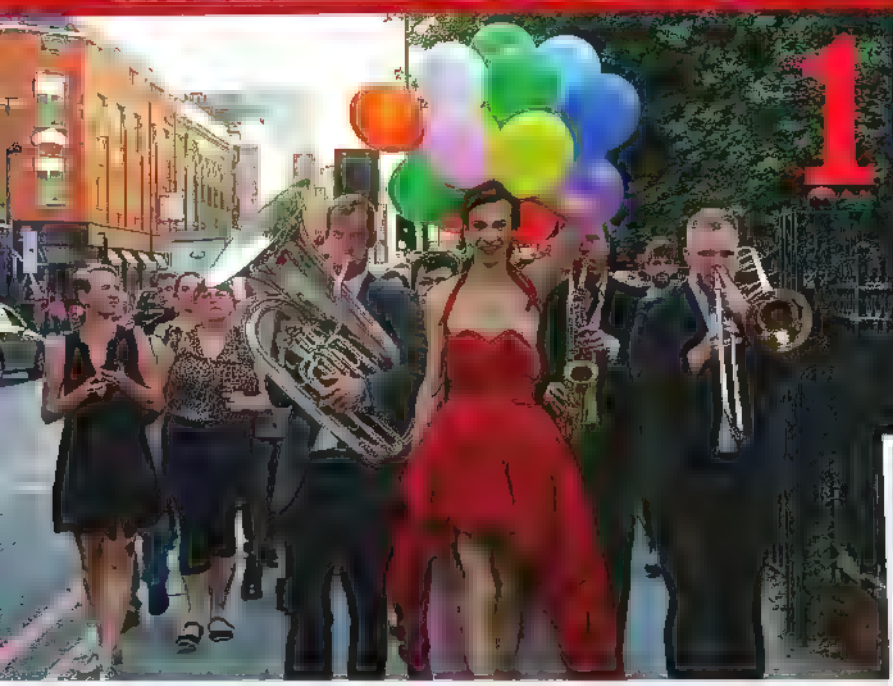
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

birmingham pride

Southside BIRMINGHAM

hotlist

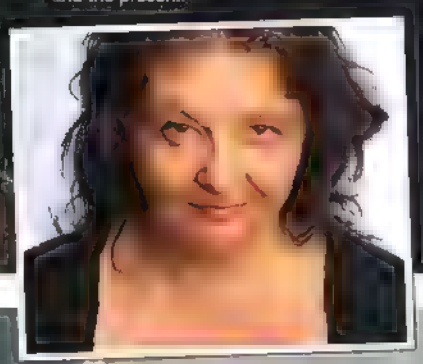
THIS MONTH'S HOT EVENTS & THINGS TO SEE AND DO



1 SHOUT FESTIVAL

Various venues in Birmingham, Mon 12 - Sun 22 Nov

Established in 2009 by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender charity Birmingham LGBT, SHOUT is the UK's largest Queer Arts & Culture festival, taking place in Birmingham and throughout the West Midlands. Between Monday 12 and Sunday 22 November, the festival showcases over twenty different events, including films, theatre productions, music performances and comedy shows, celebrating LGBT life from both the past and the present.



2 WILL YOUNG

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 4 & Mon 16 Nov; Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham, Sun 29 Nov

Gay Pop Idol winner Will Young visits Birmingham this month as part of The Love Revolution Tour, his first in four years. The tour comes hot on the heels of Will's latest album, 85% Proof, which went straight to No. 1 on the Official UK Album Chart. 85% Proof is the sixth album from the multi-million-selling Brit Award-winning singer-songwriter. It's also his most accomplished to date.

3 SATURDAY NIGHT FOREVER

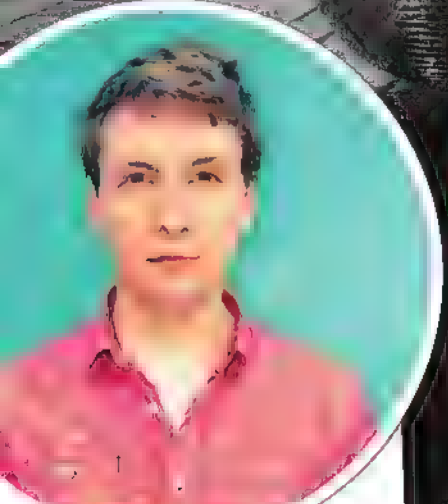
Curve Theatre, Leicester, Fri 20 - Sat 21 Nov

Take a rollercoaster ride through Cardiff's night life as Lee, a gay man in his 30s living in the heart of the city, breaks up with his lover and resolves never to fall in love again. All around him people are drinking too much, dancing until the early hours and getting it while they can. But when Lee receives an invitation to a friend's house-warming, everything seems ripe for change. It only takes seven hours, a bottle of vodka, and the devil on his shoulder for him to break his promise and fall back into the arms of a new admirer. Saturday Night Forever follows Lee on a journey through the wreckage of past relationships and the [illegible] of a promising [illegible] from life. And, as Lee sadly discovers, not [illegible] forever.

4 PAM ANN

New Alex Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 19 Nov; Playhouse Theatre, Nottingham, Sat 21 Nov

The world's favourite international air hostess, Pam Ann, is flying in from Australia with a brand new show. So fasten your seat belts and prepare for take-off – she's Queen of the Sky and it's guaranteed to be a turbulent flight!
Hilarious, often shocking and totally politically incorrect, Pam Ann keeps things lively and nailbitingly unpredictable as she takes off her pristine white gloves and delivers an unrelenting barrage of shoot-from-the-lip observations.



5 JOE LYCETT

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Thurs 12 & Fri 13 Nov

Gay comedian Joe Lycett may have been described as a fella whose act blends a little of Larry Grayson and a dash of Julian Clary with a large helping of Kenneth Williams, but he's nonetheless very much his own man.
Joe comes from the well-established British tradition of charismatic camp comedians, presenting a somewhat risque act that ably showcases his impressive capacity for mischief-making.

6 ICE SKATE BIRMINGHAM

Centenary Square, Birmingham, Sat 14 November – Sun 10 January

Ice Skate Birmingham makes a welcome return to the city centre this month. As usual located in front of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, the popular visitor attraction can hold up to three hundred people in one session. Younger or inexperienced skating enthusiasts can keep upright by using special Penguin Skating aids, which can be booked online and in advance.
The rink is once again overlooked by the Observation Wheel, offering passengers superb views of surrounding Birmingham landmarks.

7 FUSE ODG

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Sat 21 Nov

Ghanaian South Londoner Fuse ODG is out on tour! Heading to Birmingham's O2 Academy, the star has had four chart hits in as many singles. He also proved hugely popular when performing at Birmingham Pride earlier this year.

8 ELLA EYRE

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Wed 11 Nov

BRIT winner Ella Eyre, one of the UK's most energetic and exhilarating live performers, is out on tour in support of her hugely anticipated album 'Feline'.

9 BGSO AT THE MOVIES

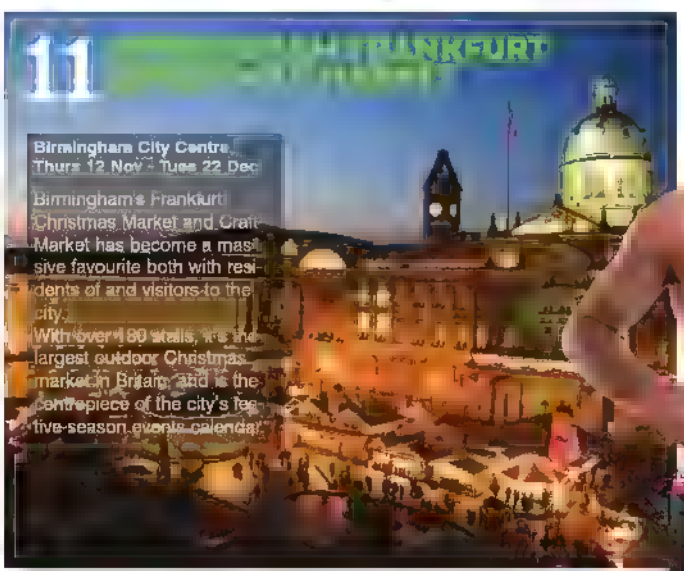
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham, Sun 29 Nov

Riding high after their Pride Proms concert back in May, Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra here make a welcome return to perform a concert of music from the movies. Expect to hear the scores from Pirates Of The Caribbean, Star Wars and James Bond during this Adrian Boult Hall gig, presented by a community orchestra that welcomes everyone, from seasoned professionals to complete novices.

10 BBC GOOD FOOD SHOW

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 26 - Sun 19 Nov

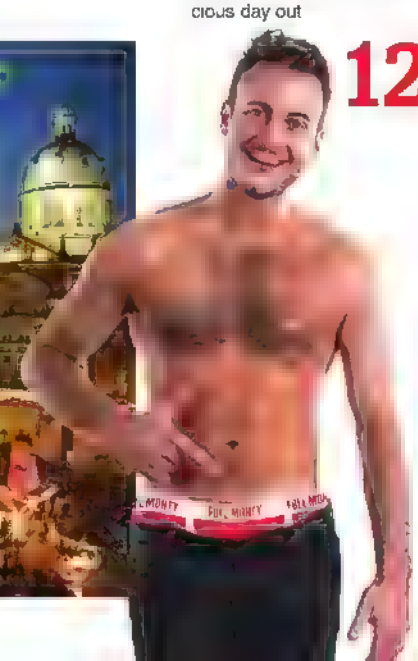
A long-time favourite on the UK's culinary events calendar, the BBC Good Food Show brings a packed programme of inspiration and entertainment to the NEC. Attracting the crème de la crème of TV personalities, this year's show sees Paul Hollywood, Mary Berry, Michael Roux Jr and James Martin cooking up a treat or several in the Supertheatre. Add into the mix oodles of tastings and hundreds of exhibitors showcasing their wares and you've got yourself the makings of a delicious day out.



11

Birmingham's Frankfurt Christmas Market and Craft Market has become a massive favourite both with residents of and visitors to the city.

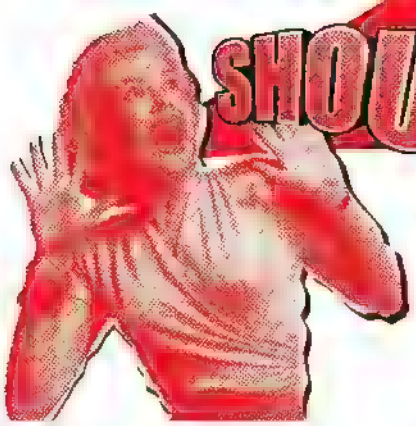
With over 180 stalls, it's the largest outdoor Christmas market in Britain, and is the centrepiece of the city's festive season events calendar.



12 THE FULL MONTY

Festival Theatre, Malvern, Mon 9 - Sat 14 Nov

Simon Beaufoy's acclaimed staging of one of the most successful British screen comedies of all time here makes a welcome return. Starring the drop-dead gorgeous Gary Lucy, The Full Monty tells the story of six unemployed steel workers who decide to get their kits off to earn some much-needed cash.



Birmingham's festival of queer arts and culture is back for 2015!

Birmingham LGBT's hugely popular and successful SHOUT Festival of Queer Arts and Culture returns this month - offering a great selection of comedy, arts, cabaret and literature

Since 2009, the SHOUT Festival has presented the best in Queer arts, theatre, comedy, performance, talks and more

Ian Hyde, Development Office for SHOUT, says of the festival: "When we first started, a programme exploring specifically queer and lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans themes and work was quite a novel concept for the city, as LGBT rights and equality moved further up the agenda. Conceived as a project of Birmingham LGBT and now in its seventh year, SHOUT has gone from strength to strength. It continues to evolve and respond to changes and developments in the world around us.

"Over these seven years, SHOUT has become a highly anticipated part of the city's cultural calendar. We're delighted to be able to present, once again, a dynamic and exciting programme of work that will resonate with all aspects of our audience, working with both established and upcoming artists, old favourites and new partners and venues."

Take a look here at some of the ten-day festival's highlights, or visit www.shoutfestival.co.uk for a full programme of events.

THE SISSY'S PROGRESS

Friday 13 November, 8pm, mac Birmingham

Nando Messias was beaten up on the street in an act of homophobic hatred. After years of dreaming up his response, he presents The Sissy's Progress, a spectacle of surprise, questioning and hyper-flamboyance.

Part installation, part dance-theatre, part walking performance, the evening engages the violence of city life and the contradictions of gender politics. Join a live marching band, directed by Jordan Hunt, to follow The Sissy's Progress to its floridly medieval climax.

£10 / £8 concessions

SERGINA'S STIMULATINGLY SEXY SIMULTANEOUS SIMULATION OF HERSELF AT BOM AND IN BEDROOMS IN PLACES BEGINNING WITH B - SHOUT LAUNCH EVENT

Thursday 12 November, 8pm, BOM Dudley Street

Join us for the spectacular launch of the seventh edition of SHOUT, in style with Sergina.

#Sergina first came out for parties in Berlin in 2009. The event will be a multi-person, multi-venue simultaneous performance of songs about love, sex, mobile phones and instantaneous culture

Following the show, artist Leon Trimble performs a live audio-visual set using re-mixed archival queer film footage, with music and dancing until late. £5

POLARI LITERARY SALON

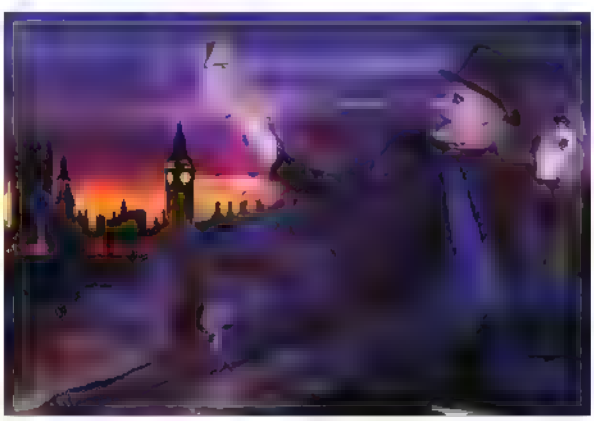
Saturday 15 November, 7.30pm-9pm, mac Birmingham

Following last year's sell-out event for SHOUT, London's award-winning LGBT literary salon returns to mac, showcasing the best in established and up-and-coming queer literary talent. It's hosted by Paul Burston, with guest authors including VG Lee.

As part of the Polari Tour, a free two-hour workshop is offered for writers who want to share their work with an audience. There'll be a warm-up creative writing exercise, but participants are also asked to bring along a piece of work (800 to 1000 words) which they would like to read in public. At the end of the workshop, one writer will be offered the chance to read at the Polari event in the evening.

The workshop, which takes place from 2pm until 4pm Saturday 14 November, at mac Birmingham, is free but places are limited in number. Booking is required via www.shoutfestival.co.uk

Literary Salon: £8 / £5 concessions



ALL THE NICE GIRLS

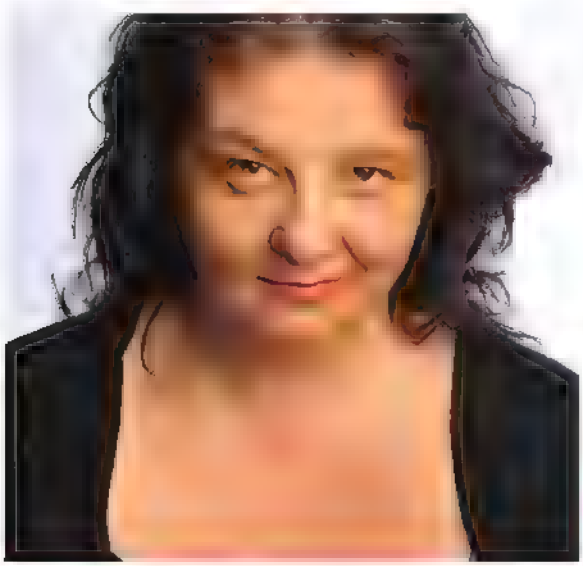
Friday 20 November, 7.30pm, The Wellington Hotel

A tribute to pioneering performers in music hall, variety and revue, All The Nice Girls takes an entertaining glimpse at the lives of Gwen Farrar and Norah Blaney through the eyes of male impersonator Ella Shields.

Starting out in Lena Ashwell's concert parties for the troops in World War One, the young Farrar and Blaney quickly adapted their classical cello/piano act into a 'turn' full of repartee and physical humour. Household names in the early 1920s, Farrar and Blaney's partnership existed both on and off-stage. Not only did they sing popular love songs of the day to each other in West End revues, they also lived together openly. At the same time, Ella Shields' Music Hall act was in decline. All The Nice Girls imagines her fictitious reaction to the younger pair as they live the starry life of Bright Young Things.

Will their relationship survive the pressures of the age, not to mention their conflicting urges - to marry and conform but also to wildly party themselves into oblivion?

£5



MY COMEDY

Sunday 15 November, 7.30pm, The Penthouse

Performing at a special MY Comedy show for the Shout Festival, alongside resident MC Maureen Younger, will be The Job Lot's Jo Enright, Cucumber's Bethany Black and Polari's very own VG Lee.

£10

SHOUT Festival Events / Diary

1-30 Nov	**Digital Frontiers** Film/Media / Free	**Millenium Point**
1-22 Nov	**Pride of Place** Research Project / Free	**Online**
11 Nov	**Pop Up Lecture: Ajamu v Ope Lori** Literature / Free	**Birmingham School of Art**
12 Nov	**Sergina - SHOUT Launch** Music / £5.00	**BOM**
13 Nov	**The Sissy's Progress** Performances / Free	**mac**
14 Nov	**Polari** Literature / £8.00/£5.00	**mac**
14 Nov	**My Beautiful Laundrette** Film / £5.00	**Moseley Washeteria**
14 Nov	**SHOUT OUT** Music / Free	**mac**
15 Nov	**It Is What It Is - Live!** Music / Free	**Sidewalk**
15 Nov	**MY Comedy** Comedy / £10.00	**The Penthouse**
15 Nov	**Dressed As A Girl** Film / £7.50/£5.50	**mac**
16 Nov	**Futuro Beach** Film / £7.50/£5.50	**mac**
17 Nov	**52 Tuesdays** Film , £7.50/£5.50	**mac**
18 Nov	**Pop Up Lecture: The Horror of Queer** Literature / Free	**Birmingham School of Art**
19 Nov	**A Girl At My Door** Film / £7.50/£5.50	**mac**
19 Nov	**Pam Ann, Queen of the Sky** Comedy / £24.90-£30.90	**New Alexandra Theatre**
19-20 Nov	**Stages** Performance / Free	**Missing Bar**
20 Nov	**All The Nice Girls** Performance , Free	**The Wellington Hotel**
20 Nov	**Transgender Day of Remembrance** Free	**The Penthouse**
21 Nov	**The Butch Monologues** Performance / £13.00	**The REP**
21 Nov	**Nothing!** Performance / £6.00	**The REP**
21 Nov	**Rocky Horror Picture Show** Film / £7.50	**Electric Cinema**

For more information about the seventh annual SHOUT Festival, and to see the full programme of events, visit

www.shoutfestival.co.uk

WIN! A Warwick Rowers 2016 Calendar!

The Warwick Rowers are back with yet another hot and steamy naked charity calendar - and this one is even better than the last!

Featuring some stunning photography from Angus Malcolm, the calendar was a real international project, with the boys posing not only in England but also Spain and the US

The calendar may be something great to look at throughout the year, but there's a serious side to it too. All sales raise money for Sport Allies, a charitable initative created to challenge homophobia in and through sport.

Sport Allies' review of the existing research has shown that LGBT students who take part in sport at university are 50% less likely to take part in team sport (NUS survey) but that students who take part in team sport are more likely to go on to lucrative careers in leadership roles (Cornell study)

As well as contributing funds to Sport Allies, the Warwick Rowers hope their calendars will help spread the message about the importance of inclusion. The laid-back theme of this year's calendar has allowed the rowers to show how comfortable they are with their bodies, their gay supporters, and with each other.

The **Warwick Rowers 2016 Calender** is now available to buy for £14.99 at www.warwickrowers.org

To win one via our competition, visit www.midlandszone.co.uk and answer this question:

In which of these countries was the 2016 Warwick Rowers calendar shot?
(A) Germany
(B) Brazil
(C) Spain

Good luck!

To enter, simply visit www.midlandszone.co.uk before Tuesday 17 November

WIN! A pair of tickets to see Pam Ann!

The world's favourite international air hostess, Pam Ann, is this month flying in from Australia with a brand new show.

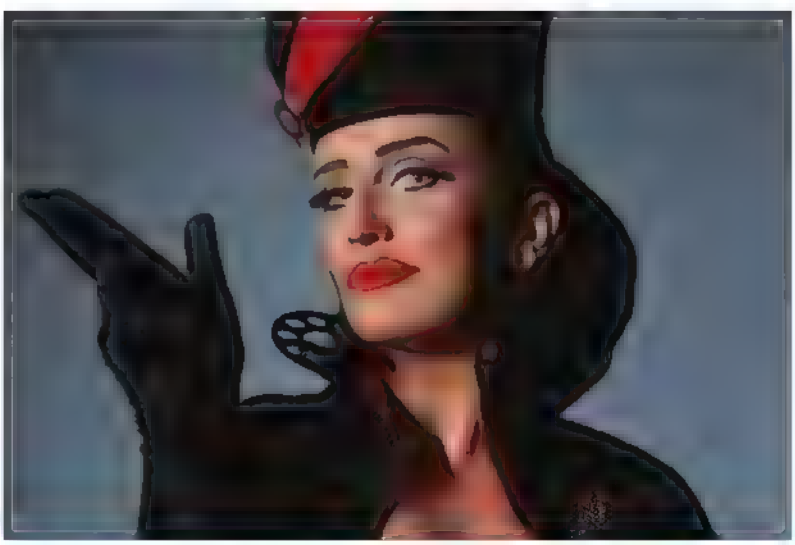
Pam Ann's caustic wit knows no boundaries, so fasten your seat belts and prepare for take-off - she's Queen of the Sky and it's guaranteed to be a turbulent flight

Hilarious, often shocking and totally politically incorrect, Pam Ann keeps things lively and nailbitingly unpredictable as she takes off her pristine white gloves and delivers an unrelenting barrage of shoot-from-the-lip observations.

Pam Ann. Queen Of The Sky shows at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Thursday 19 November at 8pm.

To enter our competition, visit www.midlandszone.co.uk and answer this question:

From which country is Pam Ann?
(A) Australia
(B) Thailand
(C) The USA



To enter, simply visit www.midlandszone.co.uk before Tuesday 17 November

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR LOCAL GAY VENUES

OUT

NOVEMBER 2015

AMANDA LEPORE

THE WOMAN WITH THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE BODY HEADS TO THE MIDLANDS

TINCHY STRYDER DJ SET
Wolverhampton gay club announces DJ set with the hit British rapper

GLITTERSHIT DEBUT
New [illegible] night for [illegible] gay-tom[illegible]

LIFE IS A CABARET!
There's a whole host of cabaret coming to Birmingham in November

XXL LONDON

WEDNESDAYS 10PM - 3AM
SATURDAYS 10PM - 6AM
PULSE
No1 INVICTA PLAZA, LONDON SE1

WWW.XXL-LONDON.COM

BIRMINGHAM

3RD FRIDAY EVERY MONTH
10PM - 4AM
THE CORE
135 SHERLOCK ST, BIRMINGHAM

FACEBOOK.COM/XXLLONDON

Double delight! **LA VOIX** and **LAQUISHA JONZ** headline Birmingham Bulls fundraiser

Cabaret fans are in for a double treat at Eden Bar this month.

Saturday 14 November sees Britain s Got Talent star La Voix and the ever-popular Laquisha Jonz take to the stage at a special fundraising event for gay rugby team Birmingham Bulls. Be there or be square!

EDEN - BIRMINGHAM

Trans superstar **AMANDA LEPORE** heads to Brum club

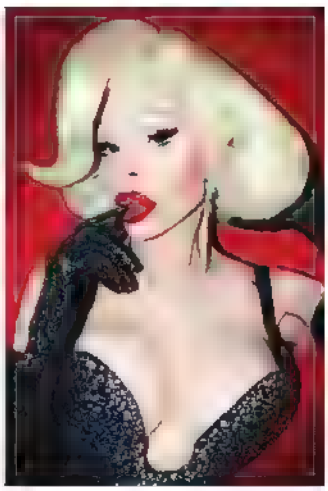
The trans woman who claims to have the world's most expensive body is set to make an appearance at the Nightingale Club this month.

Amanda Lepore takes to the stage for a live performance on Saturday 7 November as part of a full night of clubbing goodness at the Birmingham gay superclub

Expect some great songs and great people at a great venue.

What more could you wish for on a night out?

THE NIGHTINGALE - BIRMINGHAM



TINCHY STRYDER DJ set announced at Wolves gay club

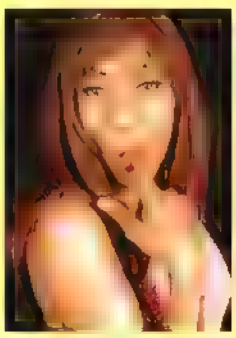
Wolverhampton gay club Gorgeous is next month hosting a DJ set by British rapper Tinchy Stryder

The event takes place on Saturday 12 December at the recently relocated venue. It will also feature a meet-and-greet with the star

Coaches to Wolverhampton costing just £10, with entry thrown in too - will be available from towns and cities across the Midlands. Coaches will be picking up from Birmingham Walsall, Stafford, Tamworth, Telford, Shrewsbury, Cannock and Dudley. Tickets are now on sale from www.seetickets.com Grab yours now!

GORGEOUS - WOLVERHAMPTON

FRIDAY NIGHT CABARET every week at Birmingham bar



If you're out on a Friday night and looking for great cabaret to enjoy, look no further than Birmingham's Village Inn.

Kicking off the venue s November line-up is Kelly Wilde on Friday the 6th. The following week sees the Baga Chipz dropping in, with Son Of A Tutu appearing on Friday the 20th And on pay weekend, Friday the 27th, it s Sandra who takes to the stage to wrap up the month. Head on down for a great night out!

THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

New **GLITTERSHIT** club night heads to The Nightingale

Glittershit is a new not-for-profit club night that's dedicated to making the club kid scene more evident in Birmingham.

The debut event takes place at Birmingham s Nightingale Club on Friday 20 November Consisting of live performance, dancers and more, it really is a night for the community.

THE NIGHTINGALE - BIRMINGHAM

XXL at The Core is the biggest men-only club night in the Midlands

Men-only club night XXL returns to Birmingham this month - and it promises to be as good as ever!

Taking place on the third Friday of every month (20 November), the popular clubbing event sees men from across the Midlands come out to play and party

The London club night's Midlands event features XXL s resident DJ, Christian M, playing the best hits and remixes to get the dancefloor packed

And be sure to check out the dark room upstairs while you re there!

Have fun, guys!

THE CORE - BIRMINGHAM

MONDAY

November 2 9 16 23 30

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

MINISTRY OF POUND with DJ Mike Emery from 9pm Selected drinks £1 Open until 2am
Missing Bar

CABARET WITH BAGA CHIPZ
Every Monday night, head down to the Village Inn for a night of fun cabaret with the incredible Baga Chipz It's not to be missed
The Village Inn

SUGAR RUSH £2 entry
Nightingale Club

[illegible]
[illegible] Dj Mat[illegible]
Until 2am Open 10pm Late
Bar Jester

OUTSKIRTS
st & 3rd Monday monthly
Bar Jester

POUNDED C[illegible]
[illegible] ed spin
Jagerbomb Carling Strong[illegible]
Sidewalk

WEST MIDLANDS

FABULOUS Fun & Games with resident host Marty (The girl who likes to party) ***Mon 2 Nov*** - Live cabaret with Sandra Free admission before midnight and just £3 after Great drinks offers all night long with drinks starting at just £1
C:21, Shrewsbury

THE MONDAY CLUB 9pm-5am Student night Everything is £2 (Shots £1) with Dj Lee Edward
Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

CHILL NIGHT with Karaoke
Three Furnaces, Telford

GET THE PARTY STARTED admission With Dj Fox [illegible]
Gossip, Stoke on Trent

STUDENT NIGHT Free[illegible]
[illegible]ks £1.50 before midnigh[illegible]
Pink, Stoke on Trent

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 Open from [illegible]
[illegible]r a quiet drink [illegible]
phe[illegible]
The Boston, Northampton

DISCO 7pm-midnigh[illegible]
New Foresters, Nottingham

TUESDAY

November 3 10 17 24

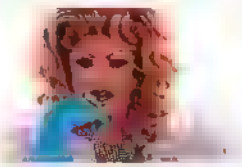
BIRMINGHAM

90'S NIGHT - Every Tuesday night 10.30pm-3am
Nightingale Club

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

SCREAM STAR SUPERSTAR With your host karaoke temptress Gavina Party starts at 9pm til late
Missing Bar

OPEN YOUR SNATCH Songs Games & Prizes with Miss Penny
The Village Inn



TUNE UP TUESDAY [illegible]
[illegible]
Bar Jester

WEST MIDLANDS

[illegible] THE ITALY [illegible] PARTY

The Lion Bar & Club, Walsall

CAMP QUIZ Wit[illegible]
Starts 8[illegible]
Three Furnaces, Telford

DIVERSITY Weekly gay friendl[illegible]
[illegible]nt with Dj Jay playing eve[illegible]
[illegible]ning from [illegible]
Velvet, Worcester

[illegible] [illegible]
o Sup everyo[illegible]
Brewery Tap, Worcester

SKYE'S PARTY NIGHT Dj a[illegible]
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

[illegible] TUESDAYS [illegible]
Cherry Darling Ope[illegible]
Rainbows, Coventry

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 [illegible]
[illegible]
The Boston, Northampton

CHILL OUT NIGHT Free Pool 6pm
New Foresters, Nottingham

[illegible] [illegible]
Nintendo Wi[illegible] from 8pm
Dover Castle, Leicester

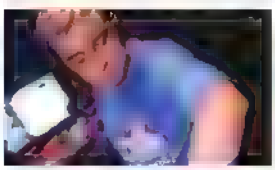
[illegible]

November [illegible]

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

2 GOOD 2 MISS Drinks from just £2 with Dj Mike Emery **Missing Bar**



KILLER KARAOKE - with Charlotte the Harlotte
The Village Inn

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS [illegible]
[illegible] feather[illegible]
cocktail me[illegible]
Sidewalk

DADDY'S DEALS AND FREE POOL
Free Pool Open 7 11pm
The Fox

WACKY WEDNESDAYS Hosted [illegible]
[illegible] with Dj [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
Bar Jester

WEDNESDAY LINE [illegible]
[illegible] night
The Wellington

WEST MIDLANDS

[illegible] [illegible]
1am
Rainbows, Coventry

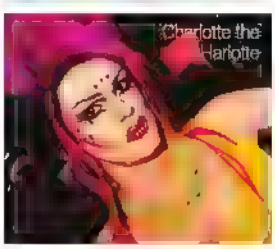
[illegible]
[illegible]s drinks from [illegible]
[illegible]e 10pm £4 after
Three Furnaces, Telford

WACKY WEDNESDAYS Kara[illegible]
Games Open 8pm-midn[illegible]
Rainbows, Coventry

EAST MIDLANDS

GAMES NIGHT Free Poo[illegible]
2am Drinks from £1.20
[illegible]araoke & Disco 7pm-2
New Foresters, Nottingham

KARAOKE 9[illegible]
[illegible]
The Boston, Northampton



[illegible]

November [illegible]

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

CHARLIE HIDE ***Thurs 19 Nov*** Live cabaret from the celebrity impersonator famous for her take Madonna Cher and more
Eden

CULT Bringing dirty house back home Top Floor from 10pm
Nightingale Club

CAMPITY CAMP with Marty Happy Hour 12noon-2am
The Village Inn

I <3 THE 90S From 8pm with Dj Dan Doors open from 2pm
Eden

LA VOIX ***Thurs 26 Nov*** Live cabaret from 10pm with Britain's Got Talent star La Voix
Eden

POUNDED £5 entry Drinks from a £1 DJ Corey playing chart and dance on whilst Miss Marty and DJ Craig with all the pop and cheese on the middle floor
Nightingale Club

POUNDED PIZZA PARTY ***Thurs 26 Nov*** - Your usual great Pounded student club night, but with added FREE pizza
Nightingale Club

THROWBACK THURSDAY £1.20 bombs and great music **Missing**

DROP THE BOMB [illegible]
[illegible]
Sidewalk

SHOT EXCHANGE [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
The Core

WEST MIDLANDS

12.01 with DJ James Jevett Open from Midnight until 5am with drinks from £1
Gorgeous, Wolves

[illegible] [illegible]
Big value drinks With Dj Zac
The Lion, Walsall

DISCO & DJ A night of fun with hostess Glamou[illegible]
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 Open from 2pm [illegible]
[illegible]
The Boston, Northampton

THE BIGGEST GAY
MONDAY NIGHT IN THE MIDLANDS!

FREE ENTRY BEFORE MIDNIGHT!
10PM-3AM

Fabulous

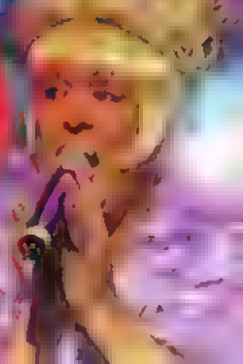
With your hosts

Lady Wanda Why & Marty

PLUS:
HAPPY HOUR FROM 10PM
DRINKS FROM £1 ALL NIGHT!

MON 2 NOV
SANDRA
THE WHORE OF HAMPSTEAD HEATH

MON 7 DEC
THE DRAG WITH NO NAME



C:21

18-21 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE SY2 6AE.
TEL: 01743 271821 WWW.C21SHREWSBURY.CO.UK

November

6 13 20 27

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

ALL DAY EVERY DAY PRICES DJ Parm takes over the weekend by playing the best of club classics house, R&B and all your favourites. Enjoy all day every day prices too
[illegible]

BIG GAY FRIDAY Party anthems all night long with Missing's DJ James. Open until the early hours
[illegible] Bar

SING STAR SUPERSTAR WITH DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikk
Eden Bar

FREAKY FRIDAY Big name cabaret at midnight. Open until 6am. ***Fri 6 Nov*** Kelly Wilde ***Fri 13 Nov*** Baga Chipz ***Fri 20 Nov*** Son of a Tutu. ***Fri 27 Nov*** Sandra
The Village Inn

GLITTER SHIT - ***Fri 20 Nov*** - A new club night heading to Birmingham's Nightingale Club
Nightingale Club

INFUSION Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with DJ Corey. Drinks from £2. Admission £2
Nightingale Club

KICK START Kick start the weekend from 9pm til the early hours. Hosted by James
[illegible] Bar

KISSTORY - ***Fri 27 Nov*** - Coming to the Nightingale's Top Floor So It Goes presents Just'n Wilkes, top Kisstory and Kiss FM DJ
Nightingale Club

L8R With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 6am every Friday
The Village Inn

LIP GLOSS - ***Fri 6 Nov*** - With host Divine Miss M. Live Halloween entertainment from Miss Trixie Cummore, strippers, topless waiter, buffet and raffle. Every first Friday of the month
[illegible] Bar

MIDSBEARS - ***Fri 20 Nov*** - Monthly meet up and social group for Bears and Admirers with special drinks offers all night **Eden Bar**

OLD SKOOL GARAGE The first Friday of the month sees the Nightingale go back in time playing some of the best in old skool garage. A night not to be missed
Nightingale Club

SAATHI - ***Fri 27 Nov*** - Every last Friday monthly. South Asian Gay and Lesbian club night. Bollywood and Bhangra
Nightingale Club

SING STAR SUPERSTAR with DJ Nikk every Friday - your chance to win cash!
Eden Bar

VINTAGE FRIDAYS a night of soul, funk, rock, motown, Northern Soul and all the classic favourites
The Loft Lounge

XXL - ***Fri 20 Nov*** - Men only night with DJ Christian M. Early Bear offers until 11pm. Every 3rd Friday of each month
The Core Club

FUNK'D UP [illegible] uplifting funky [illegible] 6am. £5 [illegible] 12am
Club Chic

KARAOKE Come [illegible] to start [illegible]
The Fox

RETRO FRIDAY Retro tunes [illegible] DJ Matt. Happy Hour [illegible] 9pm until [illegible]
Bar Jester

WEST MIDLANDS

YOLO! Gorgeous residents spinning house and classics. Earlybird drinks from £1.50 with free entry before 11pm. 10:30pm - 5:30am
Gorgeous Club, Wolverhampton

BANG The [illegible] Friday night [illegible]
The Lion, Walsall

TV PARTY NIGHT A [illegible] Friday night [illegible]
The Greenhouse, Darlaston

CLUB NIGHT Drink [illegible] entry be[illegible]
The Three Furnaces, Telford

[illegible] ENTRY FRIDAYS [illegible]
Rainbows, Coventry

FRIDAY SOCIAL with DJ P[illegible]
The Bell, Stourbridge

WEEKLY CABARET [illegible] Cabaret at 12.30[illegible]
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

[illegible] THE WEEKEND [illegible] tion before 1[illegible]pm. Ta[illegible] cabaret show 7[illegible]pm spa[illegible]
Pink, Stoke on Trent

TFI FRIDAY A fun and funky m[illegible] ture of 70s high energy throug[illegible]
Brewery Tap, Worcester

EAST MIDLANDS

CLUB NIGHT [illegible] Lambe[illegible]
Helsinki, Leicester

PINK POUNDER E[illegible] with DJ Craig T[illegible]
The Boston, Northampton

BIRMINGHAM

80S HITS with DJ Dan from 2am t s back to the 80s
Eden Bar

AMANDA LEPORE - *Sat 7 Nov* - Live PA from Amanda Lepore the woman with the world s most expensive body Tickets from www.theticketsellers.co.uk
Nightingale Club

THE ATTIC Available for hire Ca the venue for more info 0121 622 4256
Missing Bar

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Over 2 floors 3 DJs Open til 8am With DJ Lotty & Dj Richard Moon. With DJ Tonie n The Village Underground
The Village Inn

BIG SATURGAY NIGHT OUT Every Saturday with loads of drinks promotions
Nightingale Club

CULT Bringing dirty house back home Top Floor from 10pm
Nightingale Club

DANNY BEARD - *Sat 7 Nov* - Live performance from the 2015 Drag dol winner
Eden Bar

LADY LESHURR - *Sat 28 Nov* - Live PA from local rapper singer and producer Lady Leshurr Tickets from www.theticketsellers.co.uk
Nightingale Club

KARAOKE & COCKTAILS In The Attic plus music from across the decades
Missing

L8R With Charlotte the Harlotte Open until 8am every Saturday
The Village Inn

LA VOIX & LAQUISHA JONZ - *Sat 14 Nov* - Double cabaret as part of a Birmingham Bu is RFC fundraising event
Eden Bar

MARY MAC & MYRA DUBOIS - *Sat 28 Nov* - Double cabaret to wrap up Eden s month of entertainment
Eden Bar

YOUR DISCO NEEDS YOU featuring the biggest remixes absolute anthems dance classics disco house and commercia Featuring Twiggy and sexy door boys. Open unt 4am
Missing Bar

SATURDAY SESSIONS With DJ Simon Baker from 8pm
The Loft Lounge

SATURS-FACTION Welcome in the weekend with resident DJ, playing the best of everything
Sidewalk

SWAGGERLICIOUS Every Saturday night (Room 4)
Nightingale Club

THE BREAKFAST CLUB E r
Sa rday
Club Chic

FABULOUS SATURDAYS Get
The Core Club

DJ PARTY NIGHT Open from 3pm
The Fox

#JUST SAYING Ge n the pa
Bar Jester

The Wellington

WEST MIDLANDS

Gorgeous Wolverhampton

BIG pm 3 30am Pl
he cabaret lo
The Lion, Walsall

CLUB NIGHT 9 45 Free entry before 10
The Three Furnaces, Telford

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Cheese n midday 4pm &
Rainbows, Coventry

INCLUSION with big name Birmingham & UK DJs eve
The Bell, Stourbridge

ore 11pm
baret show 9pr
Pink, Stoke on Trent

WEEKLY CABARET wit
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

EAST MIDLANDS

pm £3 be
The Boston, Northampton

CLUB NIGHT
Helsinki, Leicester

November 19 20 21

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

KING STAR SUPERSTAR WITH DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikki. Every Sunday
Eden Bar

LOCAL CABARET with Charlotte the Harlotte Showcasing the best of the Midlands cabaret circuit every Sunday
The Village Inn

MISS PENNY'S SUPERSIZE SUNDAYS Cabaret every Sunday hosted by the one and only Miss Penny on stage at 8 30pm and 10 30pm
Missing Bar

SUNDAY BREAKFAST The perfect hangover cure from 9am. Just £7 95 Carvery from 12noon for just £9 95
The Loft Lounge

SUPER SUNDAY DINNER served
Sidewalk

CHILL OUT

The Fox

Bar Jester

THREE COURSE LUNCH only £7 50
The Wellington

WEST MIDLANDS

MARTY'S PARTY 9pm 4am Fun & Games Karaoke Prizes and all round mayhem Drinks from £2
Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

CHILL OUT Afte
Rainbows, Coventry

THE PARTY LOUNGE Relax pa hi Drag host an E
Lion Bar & Club, Walsall

KARAOKE & DJ A hos ess G
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

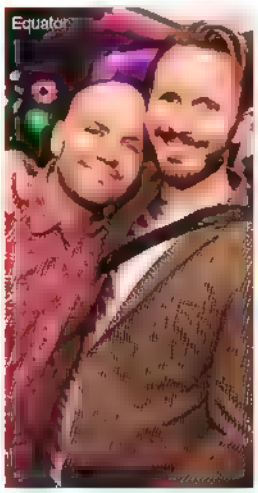
MONDAY FORTY EIGHT 2am with drink prom
Three Furnaces, Telford

EAST MIDLANDS

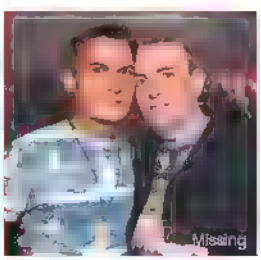
BRUNCH CLUB E
mited sol drinks
Rainbow & Dove, Leicester

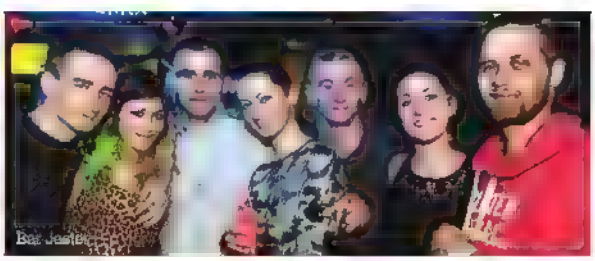
SOUND & CARLTON COMEDY PRESENT
PAMPAN
QUEEN OF THE SKY
THUR 19TH NOV
BIRMINGHAM NEW ALEXANDRA THEATRE
SAT 21ST NOV
NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE
ticketmaster 0844 844 0444
See 0871 2200 260
WARNING: THIS SHOW CONTAINS JOKES THAT SOME PEOPLE MAY FIND OFFENSIVE

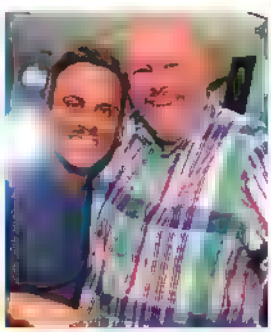
Out and about around **Birmingham's Gay Village...**

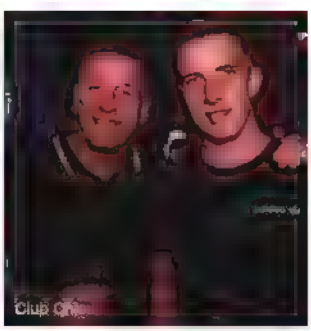


More great photos on **facebook**









The Fox

Sidewalk

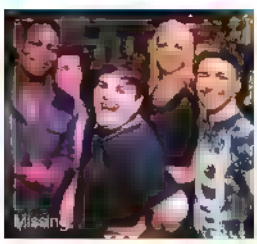
Missing

Club Chic

Equator

Sidewalk

Sidewalk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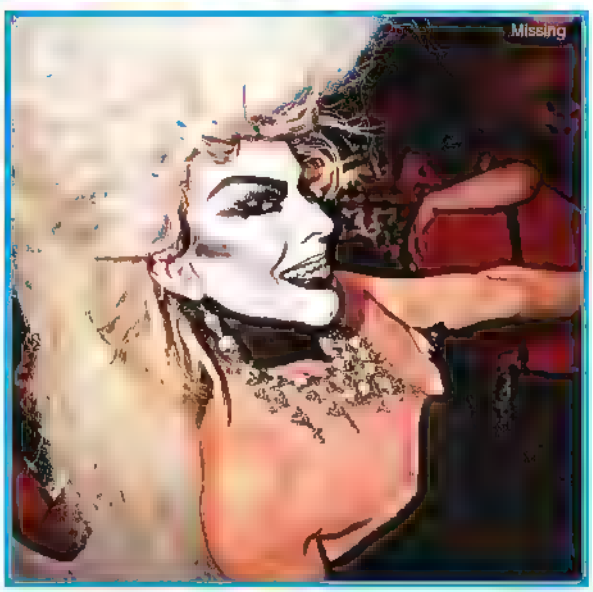
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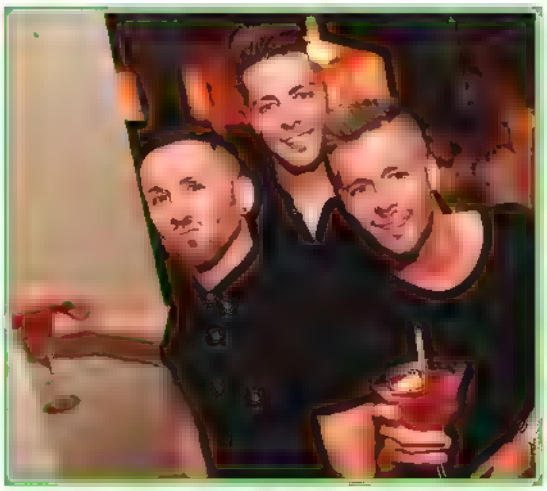
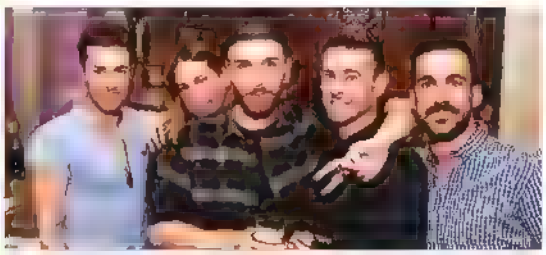
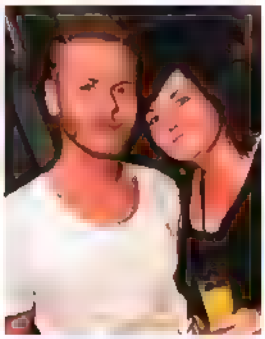
Grab a cocktail or two at Birmingham's **Loft Lounge**



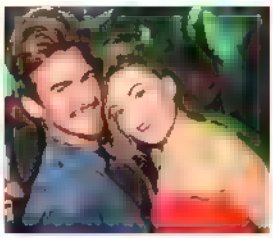




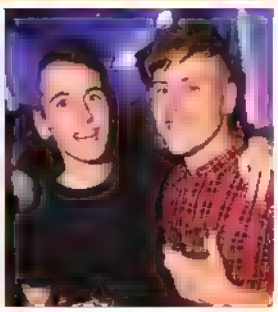
More great shots on facebook

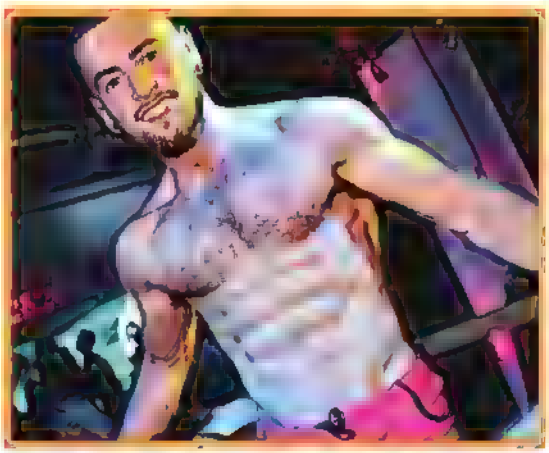
Pictures by Laura Byrne

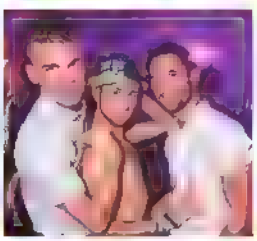
Dance the night away at Brum's **Nightingale Club**

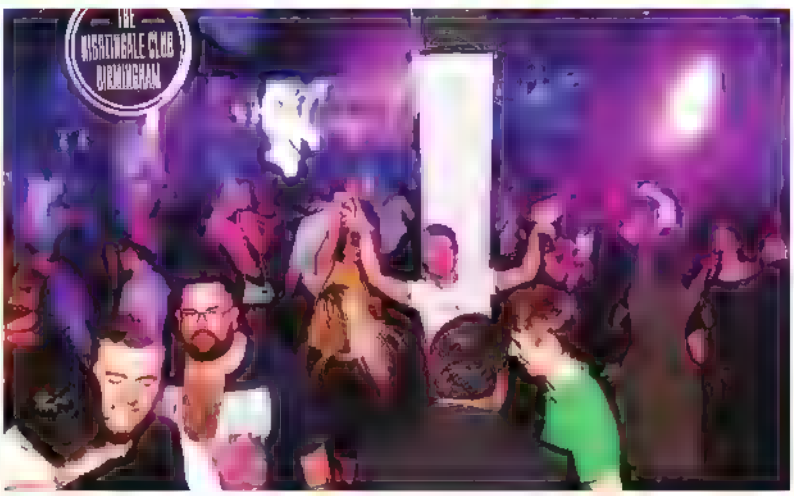


More great photos on **facebook**





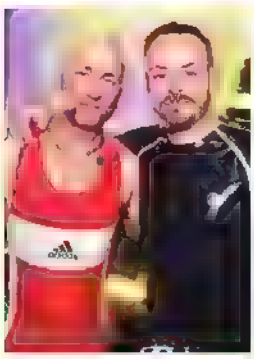


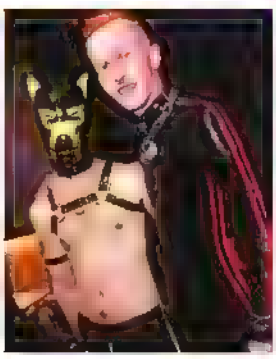


Pictures by Laura Byrne

Debut success for Birmingham Fetish Men at **Eden**

More great photos on **facebook**
facebook com/mid andszone co uk





Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

NOVEMBER

eden eden eden

eden eden eden

Open from 2pm every day 116 Sherlock Street Birmingham B5 6NB 0121 622 1953 www.theedenbar.co.uk

FRI 6th — Lip Gloss

2 MALE STRIPPERS this month TROUBLE and FABIO

Miss TRIXIE CUMMORE in a very special HALLOWEEN SHOW with your Guest Host DIVINE Miss M

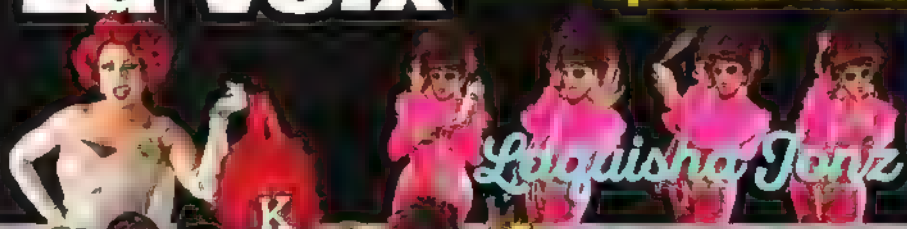
This month we celebrate all about HALLOWEEN. You are all invited to dress up as witches, vampires, zombies etc. Special prize awaits the most creative and unique costume.

SAT 7th — DRAG FOOD UK 2015

WINNER DANNY BEARD

SAT 14th — La Voix

Birmingham Bulls Fundraiser
Spartans vs Bulls



BIRMINGHAM BULLS RFC

THURS 19th — CHARLIE HIDES WHOOO?

Charlie Hides is an award winning cabaret artist, YouTube sensation and man of 1,000 faces.

FRIDAY 20th — MIDSBEARS

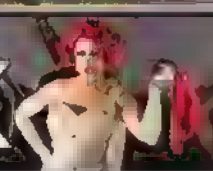
MidsBears Monthly Meet In the Marquee Special Drinks Offers All Night

ZONE

WINNER - Best Midlands Gay Venue for Men

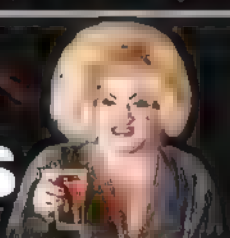
MIDSBEARS

THURS 26th — La Voix



WITH A NEW START TIME OF 10PM DON'T MISS ME MY DARLINGS!

SAT 28th — MARY MAC MYRA DUBOIS



SING STAR SUPERSTAR IS BACK! EVERY Fri & Sun Final – Jan 2016

EVERY THURS

I ♥ the 90s

90s HITS WITH DJ DAN

GREAT ATMOSPHERE

EVERY FRI & SUN

KARAOKE & DISCO DJ NIKKI

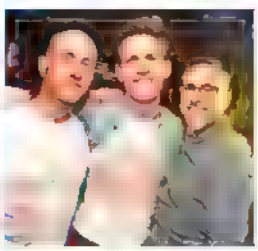
COME ALONG & SING WITH A FRIENDLY REGULAR CROWD

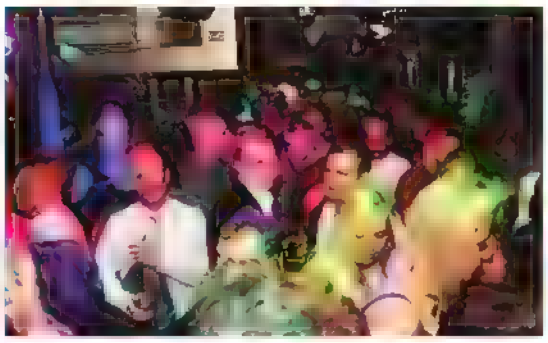
EVERY SAT

80s HITS WITH DJ DAN

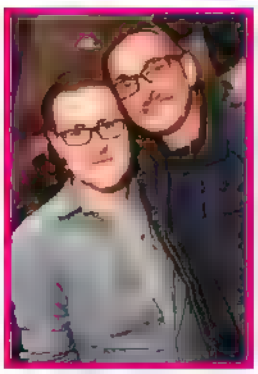
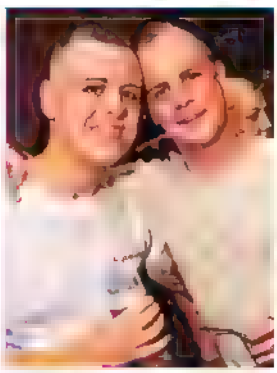
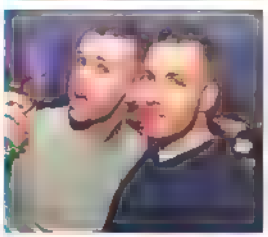
POP & DANCE TILL 2 80s FROM 2-4 AM

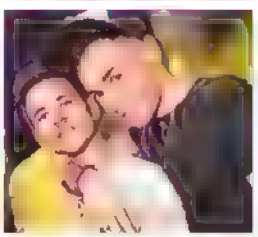
The Village Inn is Brum's party playground!

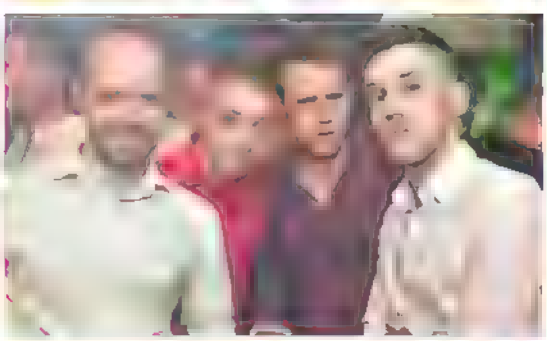




facebook





THE VILLAGE INN

NOVEMBER CABARET

VILLAGE

L8R

FRIDAY 6TH
KELLY WILDE

FRIDAY 13TH
BAGA CHIPZ

FRIDAY 20TH
SON OF A TUTU

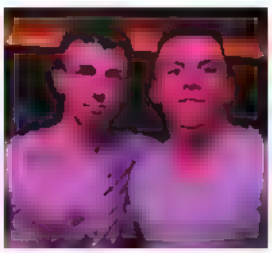
FRIDAY 27TH
SANDRA

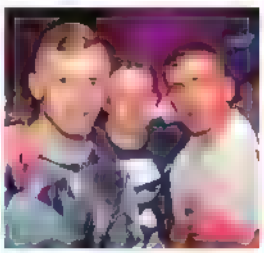
FRIDAY TILL 6AM
SATURDAY TILL 8AM

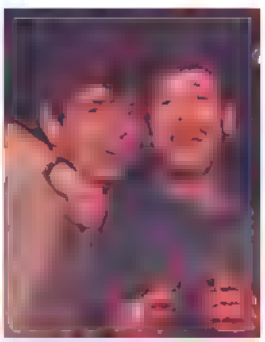
WWW.VILLAGEBIRMINGHAM.CO.UK

VILLAGEINNBIRMINGHAM @VILLAGEBRUM THEVILLAGEBIRMINGHAM

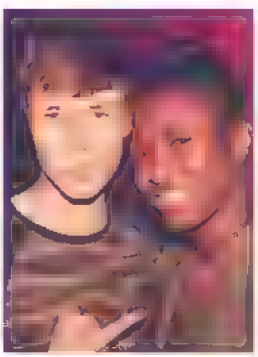
There's a **Gorgeous** new gay club in Wolverhampton!

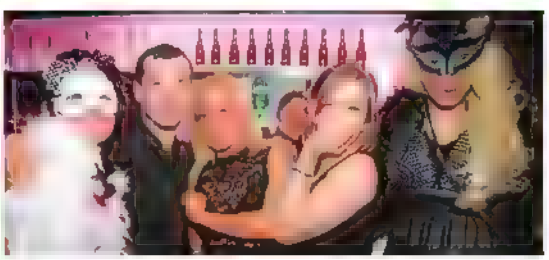






More great photos on **facebook**





Pictures by Antony Collins

Birmingham

BAR JESTER
Hurst Way Circus
B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 643 8144

BOLTZ CLUB
Lower Essex St B5 6QP
Tel: 0121 666 6888

CLUB CHIC
28 Horsefair B1 1DD
Tel: 0121 666 6806

THE CORE
Sherlock St B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 2797
www.thecoreclub.co.uk

EDEN BAR p63
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
www.theedenbar.co.uk
/eden.bar
See pictures on page 52

EQUATOR
Hurst St, B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 5077

FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St, B5 6QL
Tel: 0121 622 1452

THE FOX
17 Lower Essex St
B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

LOFT LOUNGE p46
142 Bromsgrove St,
B5 6RG
Tel: 0121 6222 444
www.theloftlounge.co.uk
/The-Loft-Lounge
See pictures on page 50

MISSING BAR
Hurst St, B5 6NU
Tel: 0121 622 4456
www.missingbar.co.uk
/missingbar

THE NIGHTINGALE p68
Kent St, B'ham
B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
www.nightingaleclub.co.uk
/thenightingaleclub
See pictures on page 51

RSVP (formerly Queer Street)
Hurst St B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 2444

SIDEWALK
Hurst Street
B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 666 6211
www.sidewalkbirmingham.co.uk

THE VILLAGE INN p55
Hurst St, B'ham
B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
www.villageinnbirmingham.co.uk
/villageinnbirmingham
See pictures on page 54

THE WELLINGTON
72 Bristol St B5 7AH
Tel: 0121 622 2592

West Midlands

COVENTRY

RAINBOWS
Short St, CV1 2LW
Tel: 02476 551738

GLOUCESTER

THE WESTGATE
Westgate Street
GL1 2NF
Tel: 01452 690045

KIDDERMINSTER

ROYAL EXCHANGE
31 New Road, DY10 1AF
Tel: 01562 228619

LEEK

VALIANT
3 Stanley Street, ST13 5HG
Tel: 01538 382812

SHREWSBURY

C:21 CLUB p48
Abbey Foregate,
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.c21bar.co.uk
/C21Nightclub

THE PEACH TREE
21 Abbey Foregate
Tel: 01743 355055
www.thepeachtree.co.uk
/ThePeachTreeRestaurant

SPIRIT
22 Abbey Foregate,
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.spiritchampagne.co.uk
/SpiritShrewsbury

STOKE-ON-TRENT

GOSSIP
4 Hope Street
ST1 5BT
Tel: 01782 204957

PINK
93 Stafford Street
ST1 1LS Tel: 01782 272172

STOURBRIDGE

THE BELL
20 Market St DY8 1AG
Tel: 0 [illegible] 518478

STRATFORD upon AVON

NO7
Preview Crowd 1st Mon
monthly 7 Windsor St
Tel: 07787 642510

TELFORD

THREE FURNACES
30 Bridgnorth Rd
Madeley TF7 4JB
Tel: 01952 588521

WALSALL

THE LION
Bridge St
WS2 8NG
Tel: 01922 [illegible]

THE RED LION
Park [illegible]
Tel: 01922 [illegible]

WOLVERHAMPTON

BOND STREET TAVERN
14 Bond St. WV2 4AS
Tel: 07825 305050

GORGEOUS
[illegible]
Tel: 01902 [illegible]
gorgeousbar
See pictures on page 56

THE WHITE HART
[illegible]
WV2 4LQ
Tel: [illegible]

WORCESTER

THE FLAG
50 Lowesmoor,
WR1 2SG
Tel: 01905 780467

VELVET CLUB
Angel Row
WR1 3QN
Tel: 01905 20218

East Midlands

DERBY

THE CROWN INN
40 Curzon St
DE1 1LL
Tel: 01332 381742

LEICESTER

DOVER CASTLE
94 Dover St LE1 6PT
Tel: 0116 255 3052

HELSINKI
94 Rutland St, LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

RAINBOW & DOVE
18b Charles St LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 7568

SLOANES
3-5 New Walk LE1 6RL
Tel: 0116 255 2220

VENOM
(YOLO) Gay every Wed
Belgrave Gate LE1 3GR
Tel: 0116 251 7986

NORTHAMPTON

THE BOSTON
College St NN1 2QP
Tel: 01604 604404

NOTTINGHAM

NEW FORESTERS
St Anns St NG1 3LX
Tel: 0115 958 0432

THE NEWMARKET INN
38 Lower Parliament
Street NG1 3BA (Gay
Friendly)

NG1 CLUB
7b-8b Lower Parliament
St, NG1 1EH
Tel: 0115 958 8440

PROPAGANDA
8 Broadway, NG1 1PS
0115 979 9183

BIRMINGHAM VENUES

GET YOUR VENUE LISTED
IN THE MIDLANDS ZONE VENUE DIRECTORY
Call: Adrian Parker on
01743 281714
or adrian@mzonemedia.co.uk

BARS & CLUBS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE ARE HI-LIGHTED in BLACK
CHECK OUT THEIR ADVERTS IN THIS ISSUE
ZONE

TARGET OVER 60,000+ READERS EVERY MONTH!
WITH THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY MAGAZINE
to find out more contact the sales team on 01743 281711

Arts Groups

ACE A Choir of Equality Meets every Thursday 5.30-7pm Tel. 01902 425092

ACTING OUT An acting group for the LGBT community open to anyone Contact acting.out@btinternet.com or visit www.actingout.org.uk

ARTPRIDE Art group Contact beckytebbett@hotmail.com

BARDS & BOOKS Reading group Every 1st Monday monthly LGBT Centre B'ham e:hadenshouse@hotmail.com

BGSO Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra. Contact info@bgso.org.uk or visit www.bgso.org.uk

DUDLEY LIBRARY LGBT READING GROUP 1st Friday Of Every Month Tel 01384 815560

GAPP (Gay and Performing Proudly) Birmingham Call Mike 07545 507791

LEICESTER POETRY OPEN MIKE NIGHT Meets last Tues monthly at The Red Tent. Tel. Bobba 07777 692881

LEICESTERSHIRE RAINBOW VOICES LGBT choir. Meets every Tues in Leicester. Call Chris on 07740 855245

LGBT READING GROUP Every 3rd Wednesday monthly 7pm Tel: Jayne 01902 552060

JOURNEY FILM GROUP LGBT Film group meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday monthly. www.journeyfilmclub.co.uk

RAINBOW SPIRIT Creative activities for gay men. Call Jon 07974 477206

RAINBOW VOICES LGBT choir Call Carolyn 07828 647384 or Steve 07813 025990

SMETHWICK LIBRARY LGBT Reading Group 1st Monday monthly @ 5.45pm. Tel. 0121 558 0497

UNTOLD STORIES LGBT History project in Leicestershire & Rutland e:dennis.g@leicestershirelgbtcentre.org

WALSALL LGBT BOOK CLUB 1st Sat monthly, 11am, Walsall Central Library Contact: Kim 01922 653121

LGBT Social

ALLsorts Group for young adults (16-26) LGBT Centre Leicester Call: Paul Foxon 0116 254 7412

ANOTHER WAY LGBT Social group meets in Walsall every Saturday, 12-2pm, Village Hub, Caldmore, Walsall Tel: 07475 942929

BROTHERHOOD Group for anyone transitioning from Female to Male (18+) LGBT Centre, Leicester Call Dennis 0116 254 7412

BRUM BI GROUP Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at the HGL drop in. Tel 07532 385760

BRUM DINING OUT Meets at a different restaurant each month e: brumdiningout@hotmail.com

CORBY LGBT NETWORK Friendship, socialising and information exchange 3rd Wed monthly 7.30pm www.corbylgbt.co.uk

COVENTRY LADS social group away from the scene Call 02476 229292

DE MONTFORT LGBT SOCIETY Based in Leicester www.dmulgbt.co.uk

DERBYSHIRE CC Employee Network www.derbyshire.gov.uk/councilequalities/employee_network/lgbt

DERBYSHIRE REACHOUT Men's Social Group Tel 01332 207704

DOSTI South Asian men's group Leicester. Call: 0116 254 1747

DUDLEY GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SOCIAL NON-SCENE GROUP 2nd Sat monthly Free buffet lunch provided. Call: Matt Barlow 01384 243220

THE EDWARD CARPENTER COMMUNITY OF GAY MEN Call: 08703 215121 Birmingham contact 0121 551 3161

EVERGREEN LGBT Social Group in B'ham Tel. 07749 412269

FAN LGBT Social Events Group Northants www.fannorthants.co.uk

GAY CLASSIC CAR GROUP Call: Simon on 0121 565 4166

GAYNEZ LGBT Games Night in Wolverhampton. Twice monthly Thurs 8-10pm Tel 01902 425092

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gay & Lesbian Community Social group meets every Thurs @ Glouc's Centre 7.30 Tel 07050 627273

HEREFORD LGBT Gay Men's Drop-in The Health Centre Gaol Street, Hereford No appointment necessary

HIGH 5 GROUP Social Group for men affected by HIV in Leicestershire Tel 0116 254 1747

IME Group for BME LGBT people in Wolverhampton. 2nd Sunday monthly Tel 07817 548602

LADS CAFE Shropshire Telford & Wrekin Call 01952 221410

LADS CAFE Weekly gathering for Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton Every Monday 6-9pm. Tel 07785 673666

LAVENDAR MOVEMENT Planting flowers for all to enjoy. Meet every Tues. e: thelavendarmovement@gmail.com

LEICESTER GAY GROUP Call: Pete on 0116 291 6138

LEICESTER LGBT CENTRE CAFÉ Leicester. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT PARENTS Network for LGBT parents. www.lgbtparents.net

LGBT SHREWSBURY What's happening in Shrewsbury. lgbtshrewsbury.co.uk

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent Meets every Wed at The Observatory, Hanley www.gaystoke.org.uk

NOTTINGHAM BREAKOUT Meets every Tuesday from 7.30 Contact 01159476868.

NUBIAN RAINBOW Celebrating black LGBT people in the community West Midlands Social Group Tel 0121 446 1086

OUT EVERYWHERE Bringing people together since 1995 Call 08450 060060

PINK SOU'WESTERS South West B'ham LGBT Group Offers non-scene social events and activities. Call 07976 274271

QUIZ NIGHT 1st Wednesday monthly 7pm @ Gorgeous Wolves Tel 01902 425092

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Social Non-Scene Group 4th Sat monthly Free buffet lunch provided. Call: Matt Barlow on 01384 243220

SHREWSBURY CHILL OUT MONDAYS 1st Mon monthly at Old Market Hall Cafe 8.15pm, Shrewsbury

SOUTH ASIANS LGBT Finding A Voice Social Group in Birmingham. Meet once a month at B'ham LGBT Centre, Call: 0121 643 1160

THIRD WAY Social Group for Bi people over 18 Every 3rd Tuesday monthly in Wolverhampton. 7-9pm. Tel 01902 425092

TRUE COLOURS Derby based BME LGBT Social group Call 07779 560284

WAGS Walsall Activities Social Group Over 18s only e: sgawwalsall@hotmail.com

WARWICK PRIDE Social society Organises events on and around the University Campus e: hello@warwickpride.org

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Community Group www.brewery-tap.org.uk

WS-MIDLANDS LGBT Social group Every 1st Tues monthly 7.9pm in Walsall. Tel: 07895 661557

LGBT Forums

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE NETWORK Formed in 2002. Email: bccLgbt@hotmail.com

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST campaigning and lobbying promoting community cohesion and representing LGBT community's views e: daveviney@blgbt.org

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST FORUM For LGB Groups. Quarterly Forum open to all LGB groups for networking e: daveviney@blgbt.org

BLACK GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION FORUM. A safe discrete confidential space for black men to discuss issues that affect their lives Call 0121 446 1086

GAY BIRMINGHAM REMEMBERED LGBT history project e: dave@gaybirmingham-remembered.org.uk

LEICESTER LGB & T CENTRE Host numerous social groups Call 0116 254 7412

LGBT WOLVERHAMPTON To raise and develop the profile of the Wolves LGBT community Tel 01902 425092

MIDLANDS LGBT EMPLOYEES NETWORK Call: 02476 492711

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Gay Men's Drop-in. Call: 01782 425969

PINK SHIELD Working to make Birmingham a safer place for the LGBT Community Tel 0121 622 2592

PRISM A forum for LGBT people in Leicester. Call 0116 254 7412

RAINBOW HERITAGE Nottinghamshire Call 0115 934 9529

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Holds events for professionals and the LGBT community Tel 0116 254 1747

Mature Groups

EMBRACE Group for gay and bi men in Coventry aged over 50 Rainbows Coventry. Call James on 07624 448717 or Nichola on 02476 231999

GREYPRIDE LEICESTER mixed group aimed at mature LGBT people Call: 0116 254 7412

LADS LUNCH Monthly lunch for mature Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton 3rd Sat monthly 11am-2pm Tel 01902 425092

LGBT 50+ South Staffs social group for people 50+ e:lgbtstaffordshirebuddies.co.uk

MATURE GAY GROUP Meets in Shrewsbury every Friday 11am - 1pm Call: Trevor on 07779 861640

MATURE GAY MEN For older gay/bi men Call Tom or Paul on 0746 399 2196

OLDER LADS CAFE Weekly group for mature (over 40) Gay and Bi-sexual men in Wolves. Every Monday 1-4pm. Tel: 01902 425092

OLDER L&G Women's network social group Derby based Call: 07779 560284

RUBY'S A mature lesbian & bisexual women's group. Tel: 01902 425092

STOKE OLDER PERSONS GROUP Social group for mature LGBT Tel: 01782 266998

Religious Groups

BIRMINGHAM BUDDHIST CENTRE Meditation Drop-in classes. Tel: 0121 449 5279

BIRMINGHAM L.G.C.M. Christian Organisation group Tel 07943 010345

CHANGING ATTITUDE Contact The Revd Colin Coward on 01380 724908

DERBY QUEST for Spirituality Sun 5-6.30pm Tel: 07970 812957

JOURNEY METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Birmingham Call: 0121 454 4406 Wolverhampton Call: 07734 155664

LEICESTER GAY CATHOLICS A group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, their families and friends Call: 07905 421915

LESBIAN & GAY CHRISTIANS Lesbian and gay Christian movement Tel: 0121 453 1299 or tel/text 07943 010345

QUAKER Lesbian & Gay Fellowship Social and supportive group founded on Quaker spiritual principals www.qlgf.org.uk

QUEST LINKLINE A national helpline service for lesbian, gay and bisexual Catholics Tel: 0808 808 0234

RAINBOW MOOT LGBT Pagans All Pagan paths welcome. Call: Rob 07943 323989

STAFFORDSHIRE LESBIAN AND GAY CHRISTIANS. Support group for lesbian and gay christians e:lana2910@hotmail.com or call 07974 7647

Sport & Fitness

BIRMINGHAM BLAZE LGBT Friendly Football Team www.birmingham-blaze.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM BULLS LGBT friendly Rugby Team Call Andy 07708 536416 or visit birminghambullsrfc.com

BOURNVILLE LADIES HOCKEY CLUB LGBT friendly hockey in south Birmingham. www.bournvillehc.co.uk

LEICESTER WILDE CATS Gay & Lesbian Football Team Call Gareth 0116 270 0137

LGBT Community Indoor Football Wolverhampton. Tel 01902 425092

LGBT TABLE TENNIS CLUB 1st & 3rd Wed monthly 7-8.30pm Tel 0121 643 0821

LGBT Zumba Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

GAY OUTDOOR CLUB Walks twice a month on Sundays Contact: gocwm@yahoo.co.uk

MIDLANDS OUT BADMINTON Birmingham Call Andy on 02476 346141

MOSELEY SHOALS Birmingham's GOC Gay Swim Group For info call 0121 346 1522

NOTTINGHAM BALL BOIS Gay football team founded in 2006 Call: 07828 014952

OUTDOORLADS Outdoor pursuits group for gay lads www.outdoorlads.com

STOKE PANTHERS BADMINTON SQUASH CLUB Call Andy on 01782 266998 5167

WOLVES WALKERS Tel: 01902 425092

WOLVES WARRIORS Football Club Tel Andy on 07825 365050

Student Groups

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNI LGBT Social events every week www.bculgbt.com

LGBT & FRIENDS SOCIETY University of Derby Students Union www.sdsulgbt.com

LGBT ASTON UNIVERSITY Tel: 0121 204 3000

STUDENT GROUPS Leicester University contact Alex e: arp19@leicester.ac.uk or Hayley e: dmulgbtpresident@hotmail.co.uk

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM LGBTQ ASSOCIATION Social events every Wednesdays & Sundays e: lgbtq@guild.bham.ac.uk

Women's Groups

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS e-mail network e: Birmingham Girlsnetworksubscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS BOOK GROUP Women-centered book group Meets 1st Sun of the month 3-5pm Tel: 0121 622 3213

BI WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP For information contact Bobbie at space318808@hotmail.com

BOOTWOMEN. Walks in the Midlands area. Call: 07505 970991

BORDER WOMEN Network for lesbian and Bi women www.borderwomen.net

L BOW ROOM Social Group for women over 18 Meets every 2nd & fourth Wednesday monthly Tel 07817 548602

FOX FILM CLUB Women-centred film club, every 3rd Sunday monthly www.foxbar.co.uk

KIDDERMINSTER GIRLS Lesbian social group meets bi-weekly at local pub e: jillygalore@blueyonder.co.uk

DO YOU NEED TO GIVE YOUR LGBT COMMUNITY GROUP BETTER EXPOSURE?

We're always looking for Community News and Community Groups to feature in our Community Profiles

Do you need to feature your group? contact Ryan Humphreys (Editor) on 01743 281722

To find out more about all these organisations their website

To get your LGBT Group listed: Call Adrian Parker on 01743 281714

OLDER LESBIAN GROUP for the over 40's meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at 1pm at 10 Norton Tower. Contact oln-sue@hotmail.co.uk

RUBY'S Mature Women's Group, Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

RUBYFRUIT WOMEN Leicester based non-scene social group for lesbian, bisexual and questioning women of all ages. Wednesday nights from 7pm. Tel: 07512 156474

THE PINK LINK is a social space in Staffordshire for women with a different vision. Call: 01782 266998

WORCESTER LESBIAN GROUP Meets twice monthly. e: me_myself_i79@outlook.com

Youth Groups

1ST OUT YOUTH GROUP Leicester LGBT Centre, 15 Wellington Street, Leicester. Call: Paul Foxon on 0116 254 7412

DERBYSHIRE LGBT Youth Forum. Tel: 01332 207704

GALAXY Group for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people aged 18 and under in Stoke on Trent and North Staffordshire. Call: 0300 123 0970

I-MIX Group for young LGBTQ people in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

INSIDE OUT (Sandwell) A youth club for LGBT and questioning young people and their friends. Tel: 0845 352 1276

OUTBURST Nottingham Support group for LGBT young people. Tel: 0115 952 5040

OUT CENTRAL LGBT youth group for young people 13-19 who are LGBT or questioning their sexuality. Call 07826 873458

OUT EAST Youth group based in Sutton Coldfield. Tel: 07795 611781

PRISM LGBTQ Support group for young people in Coventry. info@prismlgbtq.org

SHOUT (Sandwell) An LGBT youth steering group which works towards giving LGBT young people a voice in Sandwell. Tel: 0845 352 1276

SPACE LGBT YOUTH GROUP A group for young people aged 13 to 21. Tel: 01543 411413

SPECTRUM - YOUNG LGBT SOCIAL GROUP Leicestershire Group offering opportunities for young LGBT people. Call: 0116 254 7412

UNIQUE Group for young LGBTQ people. Meet twice monthly on Sundays. Call Matt or Justin 01384 243220

X2Y Group for young LGBT people in Wolverhampton. Every Saturday. e: info@x2y.org.uk

HIV/AIDS Helplines

ABPLUS A Charity supporting people living with and affected by HIV. Call 0121 622 6471

FRESHWINDS HOUSE Holistic care and support for people with life threatening illness. Tel: 0121 415 6670 (8 lines)

HEALTHY GAY LIFE - BIRMINGHAM Free confidential service working with Gay/Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and social health and well-being. Tel: 0121 440 6161

LEICESTERSHIRE AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES Tel: 0116 255 9995

STAFFORDSHIRE BUDDIES Confidential help and support for people living with or affected by HIV. Tel: 01782 201251

SUMMIT HOUSE SUPPORT Practical Support and confidential advice around all HIV/AIDS related issues in the Dudley, Sandwell borough. Tel: 01384 243220

TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST Offer a range of services for those infected and affected by HIV and STIs Birmingham. 0121 694 6440
Solihull: 0121 694 6440
Coventry: 02476 229292
Nottingham: 0115 882 0121
Telford: 01952 221410
Wolves. 01902 711816

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services advice and support for LGBT communities affected by HIV & STIs Leicester Tel: 0116 254 1747

LGBT Helplines

COVENTRY & WARWICK SHIRE FRIEND Tel: 02476 714199

DERBYSHIRE LGBT SWITCHBOARD Tel: 01332 349333

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTEGRATED RESPONSE PROJECT Leicester. Tel: 0116 255 0004

GAYLIFE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Tel: 0300 123 0970

HATE CRIME NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Talk to a Hate Crime officer in complete confidence Stoke area. Tel: 01782 266998 (Loleita Higgins) North Staffs Tel: 01785 233458 (John Wilson)

LBG COUNSELLING SERVICE Free counselling service for all sorts of LGB related issues. Call: 01782 425969

LEICESTER LGBT HELP-LINE Tel: 0116 255 0667

LGBT AA MEETING West Midlands 8pm every Sat Summit House, Dudley. Tel: 01384 243220

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent & North Staffs Tel: 01782 266998

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN & GAY SWITCHBOARD 0115 934 8485 or 01623 621515

RAINBOW SUPPORT, HEREFORDSHIRE free and confidential support Call 07507 447834

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers counselling services and one to one support for LGB communities Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

VICTIM SUPPORT Provides emotional support and practical help to anyone who has been a victim of crime. Tel: 0300 303 1977

Sexual Health

BIRMINGHAM LGBT CENTRE Support Groups, Sexual Health Testing, Cafe Community Groups, Events and more. Tel: 0121 643 0821

THE BRIDGE CENTRE Shrewsbury. A free sexual health service for gay and Bisexual men. Tel: 01743 344474

BROOK BIRMINGHAM Free and confidential sexual health services in the West Tel: 0121 248 2500

DUDLEY GAY MEN'S PROJECT Free & Confidential support service for gay, bi-sexual and MSM men living in or around Dudley Call: Matt Barlow 07980 906895

HAWTHORNE HOUSE Sexual health testing also operates a Walk In Service every morning from 9.30am - 11.30am. Tel: 0121 424 3300 or 0121 424 2456

HEALTHY GAY LIFE Birmingham: Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and social health and well-being. Call 0121 440 6161

HEREFORD SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC @ GAOL STREET Open Monday - Friday Call 01432 378915 for appointments and walk in times

HIV FAST TEST Free 20 minute HIV testing in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

HIV TESTING by appointment at Summit House West Bromwich. Call Matt Barlow on 01384 243220 or 0121 500 5205

KWIK PRICK Rapid HIV Testing. Leicester. Call: 0116 254 1747

LGBT SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE Free services for the LGBT community who work or reside in South Staffs Tel: 01543 411413

MEN ONLY Sexual Health Clinic at Heroes Health Club, Stourbridge. Call Matt 07980 906895

MEN'S HIV FAST TEST CLINIC Free 20 minute testing in Nottingham 1st Monday monthly. Call: Adrian on 0115 883 9061

OUTMINDS A social support group for gay and bisexual men with mental health problems living in the Solihull borough. Call 0121 742 4941

SANDWELL GAY & BI MEN'S SERVICE Sexual health and social support. Call Matt Barlow 07980 906895

THE RAINBOW PRACTICE Every 1st & last Wednesday of the month Held at The Gay Men's Drop-In. Call: 0300 123 0970

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services for LGB&T individuals and support for HIV & STIs including testing services Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

WALSALL GAY MEN'S HEALTH PROJECT Delivering health and social care services to the LGBT community. Tel: 01922 613141

WHITTALL STREET A sexual health clinic located in Birmingham city centre Tel: 0121 237 5700

WORCESTERSHIRE GAY MEN'S HEALTH Project providing free, confidential advice & support. Tel: 01905 681751

Support Groups

ABplus Poz Gay Men's Group. Meets 1st Thursday monthly for information and support. Call: Peter on 07960 404926.

ALCOHOL & DRUGS SMART Recovery SMART meetings in a friendly environment e: smartbigbt@yahoo.com

BIRMINGHAM PARENTS' SUPPORT GROUP Meets 1st Wednesday Bi-monthly in Solihull. Tel: Helen on 0121 711 6106

BEAM (Black ethnic & Asian Minority) Social and Support Group in Leicester. Call 0116 254 7412

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE FRIEND gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans? Need to talk? Call 02476 714199 Mon - Fri 7.30pm - 9pm

CHANGES Based in Wolverhampton. Call: lisa on 07864240222 or Maria on 07542 450163

DOSTI South Asian men's support group. Leicester. Call: 0116 254 1747

GROUP ONE Derby based support group for LGBT families call 07779 560284

HGL COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY Mental and sexual health, for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men and trans people with a choice of male or female counsellors. Tel: 0121 446 1085 or 07976 919481

HGL MARRIED MEN'S GROUP Support and advice for married men. Call: 0121 440 6161

HIGH 5 GROUP An HIV awareness group for gay/bisexual men who are affected by HIV. Group provides Support, events, outings. Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

HIV MEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

HIV WOMEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

INFORMAL ONE TO ONE SUPPORT A service for young men, south Asian men and African Caribbean men. Tel: 0121 440 6161. Email: info@hgl.nhs.uk

LEICESTER LGB&T CENTRE Host numerous support groups. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT ALCOHOL SUPPORT GROUP Offer support to anybody in the gay community who has alcohol related problems. Tel: Tony on 0121 440 6161 or 07760 195642

LGBT NETWORK Stoke on Trent & North Staffordshire Tel: 01782 266998

LGBT NETWORK Wolverhampton. Holistic support for LGB&T people in the Black Country. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT COUNSELLING Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT PROFESSIONALS in Wolverhampton. Meets once a month. Tel: 01902 425092

MIND OUT Mental Health Support Group in Wolverhampton. 1st and 3rd Wednesday monthly. Tel: 01902 425092

NATURAL HEALING For emotional and physical health. Contact Alison Lesbian Homeopath. Tel: 01902 688087

NEW ROAD PARENTS Bromsgrove and surrounding areas. Supporting parents of LGBT people. Meets bi-monthly on the 1st Tue. Tel: Margaret 01527 832492

PINK PARENTS A social networking group for all lesbian and gay parents and their children. E: pink parents@virginmedia.com

RANK OUTSIDERS Support group for LGB armed forces personnel past & present. Helpline: 0870 740 7755

RAPE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROJECT: BIRMINGHAM Free confidential, counselling for LGBT survivors of sexual, domestic violence and hate crimes. Tel: 0121 643 0301

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Drop-In Service Every Friday. Tel: 01384 243220

SWAIN Wyre Forest Meets the first Wednesday monthly. For more details phone Tel: 07842 070 240

TIME OUT COUNSELLING - Coventry. For all LGBT+ people. Tel: 07936 525665

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Tel: 01905 429800

Trans Support

LEICESTER BUTTERFLIES for info visit facebook.com/groups/butterfliesleicester/

OUTSKIRTS TRANS-GENDER SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP The West Midlands largest transgender social support group. Email: sally@outskirtstg.co.uk or visit www.outskirtstg.co.uk

SANCTUARY Providing support and practical help Tel: 01902 744424

SANCTUARY STOKE Support people who are Transsexual, Transvestite or Transgender in North Staffs. www.gaystoke.org.uk

TRANS SOUTH STAFFS Support and group for people who are Trans, Transvestite or Transgender. Tel: 01543 411413

TRANS SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday monthly. Tel: 01902 425092

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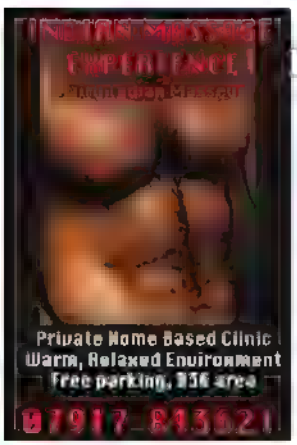

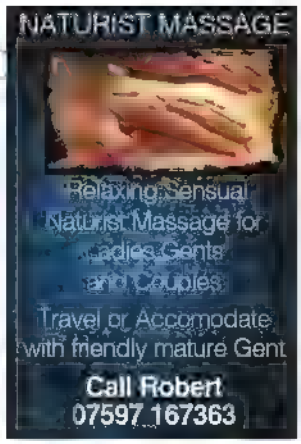
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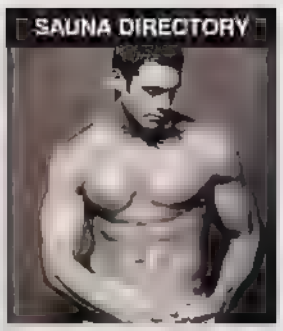

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Tel: 0121 568 6126
Willenhall Road, Darlaston
West Midlands, WS10 8JG
gay-sauna.com

SPARTAN
Tel: 0121 382 3345
127 George Road, Erdington
Birmingham, B23 7SH
spartanhealthclub.co.uk

SPLASH SPA & LEISURE
Tel: 0116 367 3932
61 Bedford St,
South Leicester LE1 3JR
splashleisure.co.uk

UNIT 2
Tel: 0121 622 7070
Lower Essex Street,
Birmingham, B5 6SN
unit2sauna.info

CELTS
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celts-sauna.co.uk

CITY STEAM
Tel: 01332 209150
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CITY STEAM 2
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heroeshealthclub.com

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manzfields.co.uk

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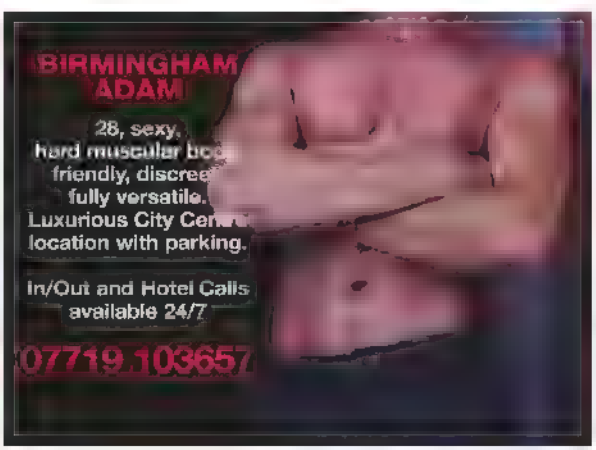

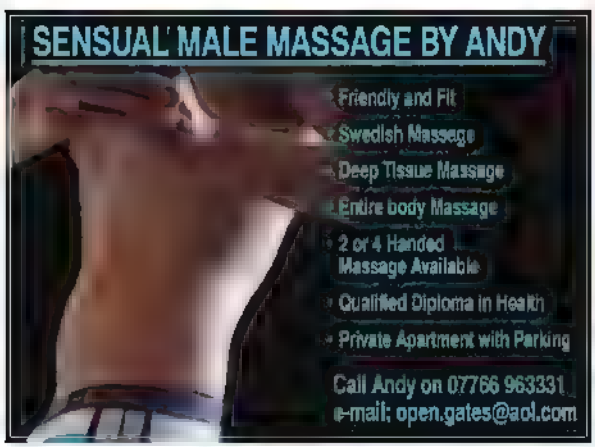

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THE EDITOR'S NOTE by Ryan Humphreys

Autumn days and nights

Welcome to the November issue of Midlands Zone magazine. With memories of summer not yet having completely evaporated, it's hard to believe that next month will see us decking the halls with boughs of holly...

Birmingham Pride was hailed a huge success!

Pride in Pride

Along with that aforementioned memory of summer, we've surely all still got vivid recollections of this year's Pride events. As ever, the Midlands hosted more than its fair share, the majority of which, it's reasonable to say, were hailed resounding successes.

And isn't it fantastic that Pride events remain so popular and well attended? The LGBT community remains a minority group and, as such, it's important to have events like Pride at which we can all come together and feel united. And - maybe even more importantly - while massive steps towards across-the-board equality have undoubtedly taken place here in the UK, elsewhere in the world being LGBT remains a hazardous business. While homophobic attitudes prevail across the globe, Pride events will continue to have a purpose, providing the opportunity for LGBT citizens in more liberal societies to show their support for those within our community who're less fortunate.

You make me wanna SHOUT!

On a lighter note, this month sees the Midlands hosting the seventh SHOUT festival of queer culture, presenting the region's gay community with plenty of opportunity to check out what's new and cutting-edge on the LGBT arts scene. The eleven-day festival is positively awash with thought-provoking, high-energy work. Check out our special Shout festival feature for further information about this not-to-be-missed weekend of fantastic entertainment.

World AIDS Day

The 1st of December is, of course, World Aids Day. The global health event is now in its 28th year of raising money, increasing awareness, fighting prejudice and improving education about the HIV virus. It's estimated that more than 34million people worldwide are living with HIV, including over two million children. In the UK, around 100,000 people are living with the virus, and the rate of infection continues to rise each year.

As ever, there are plenty of World AIDS Day events taking place in the Midlands in and around December the 1st. Check out our special feature to find out what's going on where, and then get yourself along. We certainly will be.

See you in December...

ON THE BALL with Steve Ball

Trans TV

Every decade a personality appears on our TV screens and changes the way we feel about ourselves. In the 1970s, Lenny Henry challenged stereotypes of black men. In the 1980s, Julian Clary burst out of the closet and into the mainstream. And now Rebecca Root has done the same with her portrayal of Judy, a trans woman, in BBC2 romcom Boy Meets Girl - the first television comedy to feature a trans actor in a trans storyline.

Trans characters have appeared on British television before. Coronation Street introduced trans character Hayley Cropper in 1998, but she was played by cisgender actress Julie Hesmondhalgh. Julie's portrayal of Hayley included a trip to get gender-reassignment surgery. It also showed her frustration at having insufficient legal status as a transgender person, meaning that, initially, she couldn't marry Roy. These storylines helped to catalyse a national debate that led to the 2004 Gender Recognition Act, a law that granted transgender people full legal status. But now EastEnders has gone one step further and revealed the first transgender character to be played by a trans actor in a British soap. The character Kyle will be played by 21-year-old Riley-Carter Millington. Channel Four has been at it, too, with Girls To Men, a captivating documentary following the stories of two transgender men as they undergo surgery and embark on new chapters in their lives.

It's great to see increased visibility of trans people - and it's not just on the small screen. In the film The Danish Girl, to be released in UK cinemas on 1 January, Eddie Redmayne plays Lili Elbe, the transgender woman who was one of the first to undergo gender-reassignment surgery. Redmayne, who won an Oscar for his portrayal of Stephen Hawking, is tipped to win again, this time for playing Elbe. Director Tom Hooper said that he cried when he first read the script. "Lili was so courageous to go through that process at a time before antibiotics," he said. "The risks were incredibly high, one can only imagine the pain she was in. I hope it encourages other people who might feel marginalised because of their gender identity to take inspiration from her extraordinary story."

Transphobia is prevalent across the whole of society, including within the LGB community. I know that when I was coming to terms with my own sexuality, such was my need for acceptance that I was keen to establish that, although I may be gay, I was more than happy to be a man. In so doing, I'm ashamed to say that some of my comments about trans issues were less than tolerant. I still don't fully understand what it must feel like to be 'born in the wrong body', let alone want to undergo painful gender-realignment surgery. But the increased exposure that transsexuals are receiving on the small and large screen can only help to improve our understanding and begin to put the T firmly within the LGBT community.

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